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THE TIMES

No. 64,487 WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1992 45p

Arms-for-Iraq enquiry buys breathing space for Major

■ An embattled John Major went on the offensive yesterday, launching a judicial enquiry into the Matrix Churchill affair which could threaten his own career and that of other senior ministers

By SHEILA GUNN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A JUDICIAL enquiry into British military exports to Iraq was announced by John Major yesterday as MPs alleged that ministers were prepared to see innocent men sent to prison to cover up the government's secret promotion of arms sales.

As Conservative MPs contemplated yet another government crisis, the prime minister tried to defuse the arms-for-Iraq dispute by promising that Lord Justice Scott will have full access to all government papers suggesting that ministers colluded in breaching the 1984 United Nations arms embargo against President Saddam Hussein.

In a tense Commons statement, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, disclosed that the judge will have the power to summon ministers to give evidence. After whispered exchanges with Mr Major, Sir Nicholas made clear that ministers would be ordered to attend. If they did not, "they would not be likely to remain ministers for long".

Sir Nicholas told MPs that the enquiry would be set up and conducted as speedily as possible, "having regard to the need not to prejudice any further criminal enquiries or proceedings". Given the complexity of the affair, it is thought likely to take many months. By moving so quickly Mr Major won himself a valuable breathing space in what could prove a highly damaging affair that could threaten his career and that of several of his most senior colleagues.

In carrying out his investi-

In Sarajevo, a father's sad farewell



Father and son press their hands against a coach window as the fearful boy leaves on one of a convoy of 14 buses taking Muslim and Croat women and children from Sarajevo to the relative safety of Split, the Croatian port. A 1,000-strong group of Serb families was due to leave for Belgrade in a second convoy. The convoy to Split was last night stranded in freezing darkness on the outskirts of Sarajevo after being halted at a Serb roadblock. Sarajevo television quoted Safir Halilovic, a Bosnian army commander, as saying that Muslims had been taken off the buses, but its report could not be confirmed. Mr Halilovic banned further convoys until the Muslims' plight had been clarified. UK troops arrive, page 12

Dunkel to the rescue on Gatt talks

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HOPES for a last-minute rescue of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks rose last night when Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director-general, announced that he would soon leave on a mission to warn the European Community and America of the consequences of failure.

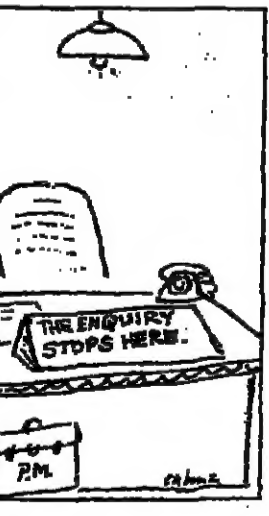
His commitment came amid growing signs that the two sides might be moving towards compromise in the dispute that threatens to become a transatlantic trade war. In The Hague, Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, said he hoped an agreement could be reached before next month's European summit.

John Major told the Commons that the government was doing all it could to secure a Gatt settlement "in a matter of weeks at the outside". Responding to concern over the breakdown of the talks, he said: "The damage of there not being a Gatt round is too profound to contemplate." adding: "I cannot myself accept that it is impossible to reach an agreement that will be acceptable both [sides], and that the moment agreement is reached the Gatt round can be concluded in Geneva without further delay."

Mr Dunkel said he could not directly intervene or mediate in the US-EC squabble. "But it is for me to make the two very much aware... that the lack of a constructive solution to the dispute puts in danger not only the Uruguay round but the whole trading system itself," he told a news conference.

He said no dates had been set for his mission, which had been approved by the trade negotiations committee of the 105-member Gatt.

French think again, page 11



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Lighting a long-term fuse on another explosive affair

THE Matrix Churchill affair stinks — of collusion, hypocrisy and deceit. The prime minister and the attorney-general yesterday moved quickly to dampen the immediate row by setting up an independent judicial enquiry, and by shifting the focus to inconsistencies in statements by Alan Clark, the former minister. But in the process they set a long-term fuse that could still explode in their faces.

The enquiry by Lord Justice Scott could turn out to be like the damning report in 1959 by the late Lord Devlin into the Holo camp massacre in Nyasaland, or the report in 1963 by Lord Denning into the security services and the Profumo affair. Both undermined the standing of the governments of the day.

Nothing has been disclosed is specifically damaging to John Major, either during his period as prime minister or earlier. And there were ambiguities in the terms of the guidelines from 1984 to 1990

Peter Riddell, Political Editor, examines the latest Tory debacle, and finds a disturbing conflict between private practice and public claims

on arms sales to Iraq which may provide a loophole for ministers. But the affair generally adds to the troubles of a government which is already tottering from crisis to crisis almost daily. Mr Major can do without further bad headlines.

Even in the short-term the announcement of the enquiry will not halt criticism. A House of Commons motion tabled last night by Robin Cook, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, claimed that there were discrepancies between what ministers had said in the Commons and minutes of Whitehall meetings released in the trial of the three businessmen.

There are two sets of charges. The first, and most damaging, relates to the original collusion in the sale of machine tools to Iraq knowing that they might be used for military purposes. That may implicate a wide range of ministers, including Baroness Thatcher as well as Mr Clark.

The second concerns current ministers who signed a public interest immunity to prevent the automatic disclosure of documents in open court. But the attorney-general and other ministers argued yesterday that immunity was always claimed for such documents and the prosecution had invited the judge to rule on their disclosure.

The details of the affair may confuse most voters, but the overriding impression is of a conflict between private practice and public claims.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Blues see red over supergirl

By JOHN GOODBODY

JODI Evans, a Rhodes scholar and member of Canada's Olympic women's basketball squad, has been blocked from playing in Oxford University's men's team, despite being "an exceptional" player.

Ms Evans, 24, and a 5ft 10in point guard, is so good that she was chosen immediately for the men's team when she arrived at Oxford last month, but the British

Birt to take over BBC at Christmas

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Michael Checkland has agreed to step-down as director-general of the BBC two months earlier than planned, clearing the way for his successor, John Birt, to take over at Christmas.

After 16 months forced to share the helm with Mr Birt while denying he was a lame-duck director-general, Sir Michael yesterday met Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, to suggest an earlier handover.

The announcement which followed comes only three weeks after Sir Michael said, in an unprecedented outburst against a BBC chairman, that Mr Hussey was too old and out of touch at the age of 69 to steer the corporation into the 21st century. He also attacked Mr Hussey for having put him in "an absurd position" by naming Mr Birt as his successor almost two years before the change, which originally had been due to happen in late February next year.

There was intense speculation about Sir Michael's future after his outburst, but only last week he told *The Times* he would not resign before the end of his term.

In a statement yesterday, Sir Michael made clear that his decision to step down early was his own idea. He said: "The preparation of the BBC's own vision of its future, which I have led over the past 18 months, is complete. We will be publishing it soon, and it will be for John Birt as incoming director-general to take forward that vision on which we have worked together so closely."



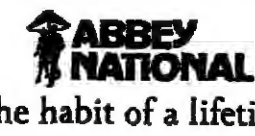
Jodi Evans: tournament ban is "very unfair"

Universities Sports Federation (BUSF) has ruled that she cannot take part in their tournaments.

She said yesterday: "The only concern that BUSF seems to have is my gender. It is very unfair." Peter Rhodes, BUSF secretary, said he had a great deal of sympathy, but it was BUSF policy that teams be single-sex. "If we had made an exception, we could have opened the floodgates," he said.

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مكتبة الأصيل

Lamont joins 'charm offensive' to win Tory support for cuts

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Chancellor yesterday joined an unprecedented public relations offensive to win the backing of Conservative MPs for the tough economic package he will unveil tomorrow in his Autumn Statement.

Norman Lamont saw up to 20 of the most senior backbenchers in his Treasury office last night to sketch out the grim background to his raft of deep spending cuts in a host of politically sensitive departmental programmes.

Mr Lamont, who has faced persistent demands for his resignation since the sterling crisis, was also fighting for his medium-term political survival

as he tried to woo his backbenchers. The Chancellor explained to the officers of the backbench Tory finance committee and leading members of the 1922 executive how the recession had reversed the gains of the 1980s and how public spending as a proportion of national output and the national debt were rising alarmingly.

Without tax rises in the spring, the public-sector borrowing requirement will reach £50 billion, about 7 per cent of GNP. The need to rein in this ballooning deficit is being advanced by the Chancellor as the justification for a virtual

pay freeze in the public sector and cuts in planned spending on defence, health, social security, education and local government budgets.

Mr Lamont was pointing out that the planned increases for next year and the following two had been drawn up in the good times. The unexpected depth and length of the recession meant that planned increases had to be cut back drastically if the government was to regain control of its finances and deliver its medium-term pledge that the state would take a steadily declining share of national output.

Other Treasury ministers and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, continued with the so-called "charm offensive" designed to prevent yet another backbench uprising over unpopular decisions.

It also emerged that Conservative Central Office is playing a big role in the attempt to unite the party behind the economic package, which will be sweetened with a cut in interest rates, possibly as much as 2 per cent, measures to boost construction and tax breaks for industry to encourage investment.

Officials at Smith Square will rush out a briefing note to Tory MPs as soon as the Chancellor sits down after his statement in the Commons. Constituency parties will be immediately mailed with background material on the statement to help them win the support of the party faithful for one of the most politically hazardous economic announcements since the 1970s.

One Central Office aide said that the preparations were as "good and thorough" as he could remember and put the Autumn Statement on a par with the Budget in terms of its political importance. Sources said that the government was determined not to repeat the public relations fiasco of the pit closures when ministers relied on a "press release and there you go". One senior official added: "It's the difference between fighting a battle on ground you have prepared and being ambushed."

Mr Lamont's statement will emphasise the measures he is taking to deliver the prime minister's promise of a "strategy for recovery". Insiders said that ministers viewed the statement as more of an opportunity than yet another hurdle for a beleaguered government to clear.

One leading Tory MP said: "It's all about restoring confidence. It doesn't much matter what is in it so long as they can carry it out."

Inflation fears, page 21

Let coma man die, says BMA

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

TONY Bland, the Hillsborough coma victim, should be allowed "to die peacefully with his family holding his hand", the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The BMA also called for a new dialogue between patients and doctors over treatment of the dying. It backed the idea of a card, similar to an organ donor card, which could be carried by people who did not want to be kept alive if there was no hope of recovery.

Mr Bland has been fed through a tube for three years since he suffered irreversible brain damage in the Hillsborough football disaster in 1989. Tomorrow, Yorkshire regional health authority will seek permission in the High Court to remove his feeding tube and allow him to die.

Dr Fleur Fisher, head of the BMA's ethics and science division, said that with patients such as Mr Bland it was right that surgeons should fight to save their lives in the early stages. "But this tragedy has gone on for three years, the family and surgeon have supported Mr Bland totally and recognise that this young man has no hope of recovery. The least that can be done for him is to allow him to die peacefully with his family holding his hand."

The BMA says that patients in a persistent vegetative state should be treated for at least a year before such decisions are made. Views of relatives should be taken into account but cannot be overriding.

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Fuse is lit on explosive affair

Continued from page 1

supporting the arming of Iraq against Iran at a time when ministers were deploring the build up of weapons in the region. None of this will have surprised anyone in America since one of the most damaging pre-election charges against the Bush administration was that it connived in the channelling of funds to finance arms supplies to Baghdad until the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

As often, the most pertinent questions during yesterday's Commons exchanges came from an independent-minded backbencher such as Richard Shepherd, the Conservative party challenger of official secrets. He said that the major ethical and moral point was that a prosecution could be mounted which would take away the liberty of three businessmen when ministers appeared to know that there was a basis on which the trial should not proceed. There was, he argued, a question of trust between the Commons and ministers. "When we are told a policy is such, it is such and there is no deviation," he said.

The administrations in both Washington and London believed that there were good strategic, and trading, reasons for their "tilt towards Iraq". The trouble is that they were saying something very different to their publics at the time. Whatever else Lord Justice Scott finds in his enquiries, ministers and senior officials on both sides of the Atlantic are now paying the price for being found out in their stretching of the truth.



Boris Yeltsin hears a speech of welcome by Lord Mackay, Lord Chancellor

Yeltsin delivers coup warning and hands the Queen an invitation

BY ANNE McELVOY, MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday warned that the "ghosts of the past" were threatening to overthrow Russia's reforms and vowed to withstand the challenges of headline opponents this winter by assuming emergency powers if need be.

Mr Yeltsin also, at a Buckingham Palace lunch, invited the Queen to visit his country. Earlier, Mr Yeltsin used the occasion of a speech to both houses of parliament on the final day of his visit to Britain to reassure the West that he intends to fight off conservatives who want a slower transition to capitalism, saying: "We must openly recognise

that there are forces in our country interested in a revanchist coup."

In one of his strongest attacks yet on the alliance of right and left plotting to rise against him at the Congress of People's Deputies next month, he dismissed them as leftovers from the Communist elite, Russian nationalists and political adventurers.

Mr Yeltsin cut a confident figure as his bass voice boomed through the chamber, and departed from his prepared speech several times to the discomfort of his interpreters. He dismissed his opponents as "a theatre of

shadows in which the ghosts of the past are giving their farewell performance."

At lunch with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of York, Mr Yeltsin said, he had asked his royal hosts to visit Russia and they had accepted. An invitation was issued by Mikhail Gorbachev, three years ago but never realised, partly due to instability in Russia and partly because of the Communist Party domination that persisted under his rule. This time the Palace sounds keener on the idea — always presuming that Mr Yeltsin survives in power long enough.

Russian sweeps in to pomp and ceremony at old folks' home

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

HAVE you ever organised a social morning at an old folks' home, when a Special Visitor is to call (and perhaps show slides) and residents gather in the lounge? If so you will have recognised the mood in the Royal Gallery in the Lords yesterday. The Special Visitor was the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, but he did not bring slides.

Peers were in excited mood. Theoretically the occasion was for both the Lords and the Commons and equal seating had at first been set aside but a few rows of seats were enough for the handful of MPs who turned up, and the rest were filled by peers. Age brings an appetite for pomp and circumstance, and besides, they have time on their hands.

The Royal Gallery is Victorian at its most absurd: neo-Gothic excess and fevered braggadocio. On opposite walls hang two vast oil paintings, one of victory at Trafalgar, the other Waterloo. Apparently when President Pompidou visited, the French embassy insisted these be draped in muslin.

Headphones had been placed on each seat. Bewildered peers fiddled with these until a voice over the loudspeakers said: "You will find a listening device on your seat. There is an On button which you switch on. It cannot be switched off. English is on channel 1, Russian on channel 2."

It was nearly 11.00am. We had been waiting since shortly after 10.00. "Make way for Madam Speaker!" shouted a flunkie. Peers struggled to their feet, getting tangled in their listening devices, as guards in brass helmets stood to attention. Betty Boothroyd, knocking "em cold in black and gold, tore down the aisle, pursued by footmen. "Gosh, what a pace!" whispered a nearby peer, enviously, to his chum.

"Make way for the Lord Chancellor!" came the shout. Lord Mackay, careered past in a cloud of brocade, moments later. Like buses, people in garters don't come for hours, then they all come at once. Then Dame Janet Footes bustled down the aisle, in violent purple. Dame Janet doesn't need ceremonial dress for these occasions: her everyday clothes are sufficiently remarkable.

Now came brass fanfare, followed by the unfortunately timed trumpeting of a peer upon his handkerchief. And in strode Boris Yeltsin, his white hair swept back in an impeccable quiff. He looked like a Teddy boy dad at parents' day. The President stood between Lord Mackay and Madam Speaker: the two in identical gold lace and black silk outfits: a glorified version of those matching his 'n' hers car coats you can order from Sunday magazines.

The President, Russia's answer to John Prescott, struck me as a powerful orator. His speech, which was in substance routine, was full of light and shade and gentle humour, and a bold oratorical use of silences.

True, something of a shudder ran down our backs at a passage which twice repeated the phrase "there is no alternative" — the words ringing out with Thatcherian vigour. Was he — heaven forbid — turning into...? "Dad!" he cried. "Yes! We have made mistakes..." The audience relaxed. No, he was not.

Yeltsin's use of language rose at times to a level of which Churchill would have approved. Pleading for an end to talk of Western "victory" in the Cold war, he said that the iron curtain did not follow geography: "the front line of the Cold war cut through the hearts and destinies of men and women everywhere" as much in Russia as in the West.

He was thanked with a cheery Betty Boothroyd, who told him that he might be the first Russian President, but she was the first woman Speaker. This was, they told us, the "first time in 25 years" that the privilege of a reception in the Royal Gallery had been offered to a statesman from any country but a close Western ally. Well yes it was 25 years and nine months ago that party secretary Kossygin stood there, with Harold Wilson beaming beside him.

I found the press crates. 10 February 1967. With the foreign secretary applauding the British PM called Kossygin "an 'old friend' whom 'I personally know to be cool and wise in his judgement, warm in his heart'".

Peers and MPs had cheered as the two men had called for "closer relations, including trade relations, to help the world towards the path to true and lasting peace". Vanity, all vanity.

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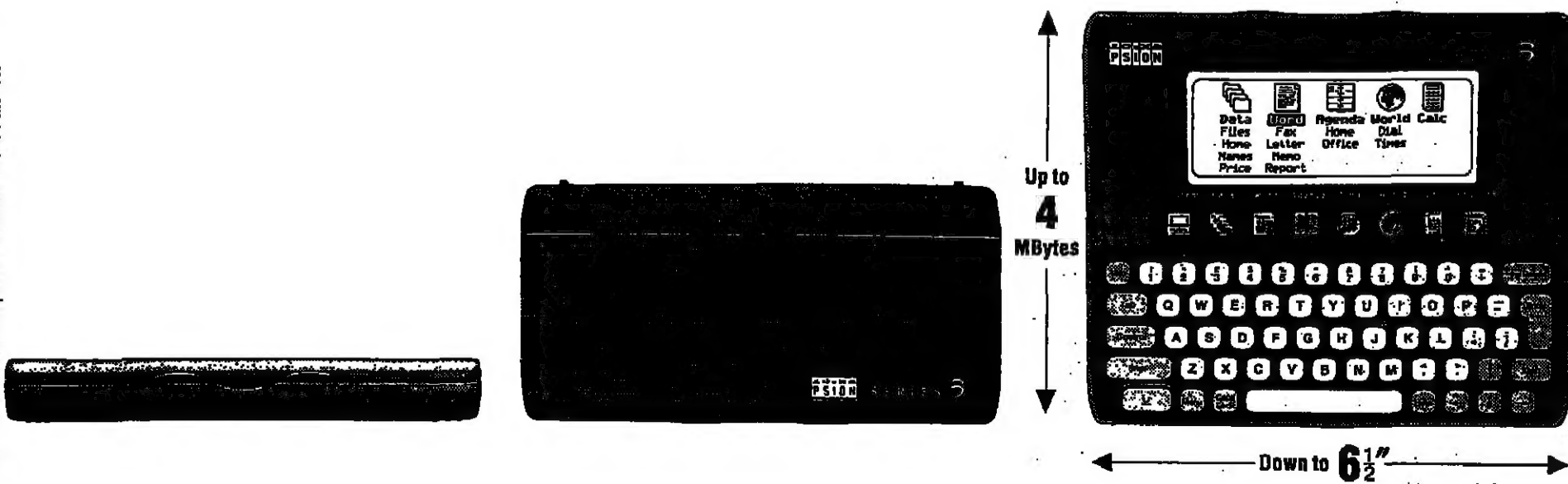
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A church divided: 563 bishops, clergy and laity rule on women's ordination

Whips bring last waverers into line at synod

The issue of women's ordination could be settled by as few as one or two votes, but the repercussions within and beyond the Church of England will be massive

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHURCH pressure groups using parliamentary-style whipping tactics at the General Synod in Westminster yesterday tried to sway the handful of waverers who will swing today's decisive debate on women priests.

Weeks of threats to resign and allegations of heresy and schism were replaced by intensive lobbying by the Catholic, Evangelical and Liberal parties in the Church of England. Many described a new optimism that the vote on whether to allow the ordination of women priests might succeed today, after months of pessimistic forecasts that it was doomed to failure.

Elaine Storkey, a leading Evangelical, said: "Two days ago I would have said it would be defeated. Now I think it is just going to go through." She knew of four Evangelicals who have previously abstained but would vote in favour today.

The vote is so finely balanced that unwell and elderly members of the synod are being urged to vote at all costs. A sick bed and first aid are on hand.

The Right Rev Peter Ball, Bishop of Gloucester, has previously always voted against but planned to abstain today. He recently moved to Gloucester, where a large majority supports women priests, from a diocese which is a bulwark of opposition. Bishop Ball said: "I place the unity of Christ's church in the diocese before everything else. We must all lay down our lives on behalf of those who are against us."

Up to 1,000 priests could leave the church if the vote succeeds, according to the Ven David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester, who will open and conclude the argument for the opposition in today's debate.

The Rev Martin Flatman, a vicar in Oxford, said several priests would attempt to leave and take their congregations

with them into the Roman Catholic church. Others would stop sending their collections into diocesan funds under the church's "quota" system, which helps to pay clergy stipends. Father Flatman said: "I have given 20 years of my life to the church. They have drawn blood out of a stone. I will leave if it goes through." Under a scheme also to be debated today if the women's ordination vote succeeds, the church will spend £11 million on financial provision for every 100 priests who leave for conscience reasons.

The Rev Joy Carroll, a deacon in Southwark, said: "It would be very sad if 1,000 priests go, but there are 1,000 good women waiting to step into their shoes." Miss Carroll, 32, said her contemporaries outside the church would not understand a vote against women priests. "The church will not be able to say with credibility anything moral, spiritual or social if it cannot get a basic issue of justice right."

The 563 synod members who will vote today have received up to 180 letters in the past four weeks. The lobbying follows a meeting of the synod in York in July, which indicated that today's vote could be lost narrowly in the house of laity. A two-thirds majority is needed in all three houses of bishops, clergy and laity if it is to go through today.

The most intensive lobbying has been of the dozen or so waverers, most Evangelical, who have been bombarded with letters, telephone calls "friendly gestures" and Bible-based argument to win them over. Church insiders said about four were still undecided. The vote today could hang on them.

In coffee queues at Church House, where the Synod meets, no one was allowed to stand alone too long, especially if they were known as a



Pressing issue: Susan Cole-King discussing with other synod members the value of women in the church and the measure to be debated today

waverer. Lobbyists from each group made the most of the last few hours before today's debate and vote.

The 150-strong Evangelical group, "Eggs", met yesterday lunchtime to pray for God's guidance. Mark Birchall, their chairman, has previously voted against but planned to support the ordination measure today. "It is very close. There has been an awful

lot of lobbying and arm twisting," he said.

The 180-member Catholic group and the 110-member Liberal Open Synod group both met on Monday night. The Rev Peter Geldard, chairman of the Catholic group, said he had three whips working on the waverers and Catholic group members. "They have been acting to encourage attendance and

support. Whatever the result, this is a no-win situation. Many people see this as a Rubicon." He believes a victory by one or two votes would not be a sufficient consensus for change.

Brian McHenry, chairman of the Open Synod group, said: "Continuous conversations are going on around the building. It is not as formal as the parliamentary whips system. There is movement in the clergy and laity."

The General Synod is elected by the church's deanery synods. Nine out of ten deanery synods support women priests, according to David McClean, Professor of Law at Sheffield University and chairman of the house of laity. Synod members do not have to vote according to the majority feeling of their dean-

eries or dioceses, and if today's vote fails the representation by the synod of the church is certain to be questioned. Professor McClean said: "There is a climate of expectation in the church."

Christina Rees, a whip for the movement for the ordination of women, yesterday befriended waverers to encourage them. She said: "Mainstream orthodox

thought in this country is that women should be ordained priests."

The Right Rev Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, said: "Until now I have been pessimistic. But for the past few weeks I have had a quiet optimism that it is going to go through."

Henry Chadwick, page 16
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After a 17-year debate, opposing factions decide church's future



For: the Rt Rev Michael Adie, Bishop of Guildford



For: Dr George Carey will plead for unity



For: Christina Rees, pro-ordination "whip"



Against: the Rt Rev David Lunn may resign



Against: the Rev Peter Geldard, key lobbyist



Against: the Ven David Silk will open debate

TODAY at 10am, 17 years after the Church of England first debated women priests, the General Synod begins taking the final steps on one of the most divisive issues since the Reformation (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The Priests (Ordination of Women) measure will give the church the power in law to ordain women priests. If it is passed by a two-thirds majority in the three synodal houses of bishops, clergy and laity, it will be debated in both Houses of Parliament in June next year. It will then go forward for Royal Assent. The first woman could be ordained priest after July 1994.

The church has been debating the issue since 1975, when the general synod voted that there were no fundamental objections to the ordination of women priests.

However, a motion to remove legal and other barriers was lost then and in 1978. In 1984, the General Synod agreed to bring forward legislation to permit the ordination of women priests.

A motion to ordain women

deacons was carried in 1985 and the first were ordained in 1987. In July last year, the synod debated the measure in York in the separate convocations of Canterbury and York and in the house of laity. The bishops were 70.45 per cent in favour, the clergy 68.91 per cent and the laity 61.41 per cent.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, will chair this morning's debate. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will take over after lunch and the vote will take place after 5pm.

The 53 bishops will ascend the platform in the debating chamber to vote. The 253 clergy and 257 laity will separate and pass through four doors, for and against. Dr Carey will announce the result and call for it to be received in silence.

The debate in favour will be opened by the Rt Rev Michael Adie, Bishop of Guildford, who will also have the last word. The case against will be led by the Ven David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester. Synod members will speak for

ten minutes unless the chairman imposes a shorter limit. If the motion is carried, synod will vote on two related canons and the measure to give financial provision to clergy who leave the church.

The main arguments against are that the priest acts as a representative of Christ, that Jesus was male and those who represent Him should therefore be men. They say women are subordinate to men in the order of creation, that Jesus chose 12 male apostles and that the male priesthood is maintained by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches and has been tradition for 2,000 years.

The main arguments in favour are that God is neither male nor female but embraces both, an all male priesthood reinforces patterns of inequality, an inclusive ministry would better represent the church community and the Bible proclaims the equality of male and female.

The debate will be televised on BBC2 from 2.15pm and be broadcast on Radio 4 long wave from 10.10am to 5pm.

EC curbs movement of cultural treasures

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community trade ministers yesterday agreed new rules restricting the movement of works of art and "cultural goods". The agreement, though watering down proposals originally made by the European Commission two years ago, will worry the London auction houses who fear there may be abuse of a clause which allows member states to claim back cultural goods they believe to have been illegally exported.

Greece, which wanted export licences to be made compulsory for almost all archaeological finds, voted against the measure. Germany, which wanted more freedom of movement, abstained.

The agreement sets value thresholds above which export licences to third countries outside the EC will be obligatory. They are 15,000 Ecu (\$12,200) for mosaics and maps, 50,000 Ecu for books and objects such as cars, and 100,000 Ecu for paintings.

A work of art deemed to be a national treasure which has been illegally smuggled within the community can now be claimed back within 30 years if it was privately owned and within 75 years if it came from a public collection.

Jean Dondelinger, the EC culture minister whose team drafted the directive, said that if a sale was objected to by another country, prima facie evidence would have to be brought before a British court to prove that the work of art should not be sold.

The Department of National Heritage had feared it might have to issue up to 250,000 export licences a year just for archaeological material.

Leading article, page 17

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

50: امت بالاصل

Average family now needs £21,000 a year for basics

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

■ Keeping a family provided with what most people regard as the necessities of life costs over £300 a week but benefits provided by the state pay only £100

A FAMILY of two children and two adults, one of whom goes out to work, requires an income of £21,000 a year to support a basic, far from luxurious, standard of living, researchers have found.

The unexpectedly high income, more than £5,000 a year above average earnings, is necessary just to pay for rent, food, clothes, fuel and basic household items such as a TV, five-year-old car and one week's annual holiday. It would be enough to pay for a washing machine but not a tumble dryer, lipstick but not perfume, records and cassettes but not compact discs.

The shopping list, which only includes items owned by more than half the population, would cost £317 a week for this household. Described as "modest but adequate" by researchers from the Family Budget Unit at York University, it would bring a living standard "well above the requirements of survival but well below the level of luxury", they say in a report published yesterday by the Joseph

Rowntree Foundation. Costs for owner-occupiers are higher.

A low-cost version of the budget, which allows nothing for drinking or smoking, includes fewer items (a day trip to Blackpool in place of an annual holiday) and based on the cheapest prices, would cost £141.40 for the same household. Only items regarded as necessities by at least three quarters of the population were included. The total cost is £36 more than the family would receive in state benefits.

The researchers drew up their shopping lists based on consumer surveys, nutritional needs, energy use for certain sizes of house, and similar budgets produced in other countries.

The sum for clothing — £29.27 a week for this family — was based on the cheapest items available in branches of C&A and food budgets

(£58.67 for this family) based on 300 basic items priced by Sainsbury's.

Launching the report yesterday, Professor Jonathan Bradshaw of York University, who led the research, said the low cost budget would buy an "extremely mean" standard of living. "We took out of the 'modest' budget everything we felt could be taken out," he said. "It would be difficult to maintain anything but a very boring lifestyle."

Among lone parents, most of whom depend on state benefits, more than half fall below the low cost standard of living. The report shows that a family with two older children needs to spend 57 per cent more than a childless couple to maintain the same standard of living but a single man has to spend only two thirds as much. However, these differences are not reflected in income support rates which

are proportionately more generous for single pensioners than for families with children.

Professor Bradshaw said the relative value of income support rates for different sections of the population had not been reassessed since 1942 and "ought to be rethought from scratch".

The report shows that the cost of providing a child with a basic standard of living is about £60 a week of which a quarter goes on food and 13 per cent on clothes. Boys cost more than girls and single children are more expensive than siblings. Child benefit at £9.60 for the first child and £7.80 for subsequent children covers less than a fifth of this cost. Families on income support receive £19.20 for each child, intended to cover the whole cost of their care, which meets less than half the basic living cost.

Working parents who have young children have to meet high child care bills. Day care by a childminder for two children, one in a nursery class and one at primary school, is estimated to cost £60 a week for a mother working full time or £24 a week if she works mornings only. Costs per child are lower in a two-child family because they are shared.

Cuts in the real level of some social security benefits are widely expected to follow the government's Autumn Statement tomorrow but Professor Bradshaw said the unemployed should not be subject to a "further assault" on their living standards. "I am particularly worried about a cut for families with children," he said.

Donald Dewar, Labour spokesman on social security, said the report's "crystal clear" message for the government was that there was no room for cutting social security benefits. Rises to be announced in the Autumn Statement "must match the rise in prices or there will be hardship and poverty for the poorest in society. Families already under great pressure will suffer in a move which will hurt millions but will do nothing to create jobs," he said.



Historic dress: Lucy McLoughlin models an evening dress made in 1933 for Wallis Simpson, later Duchess of Windsor, which goes under the hammer at Christie's in London on Tuesday. Designed by Jeanne Lanvin, of Paris, the dress was worn by Mrs Simpson at balls and dinner parties in the early years of her friendship with the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII. It is the first

piece of her clothing to be offered for auction and is expected to fetch up to £1,500. The dress, made of blue silk, was given to Florence Mann, the mother of the vendor, who was cook to the wealthy American hostess Lady Furness and later worked on a freelance basis for Mrs Simpson. The price and Mrs Simpson first met at Lady Furness's home in Gloucestershire.

Record number of soldiers charged

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE number of soldiers facing criminal charges in connection with duty in Northern Ireland is believed to be higher than at any time since the Troubles began. The RUC announced yesterday that criminal proceedings will be taken against six members of the third battalion of the Parachute Regiment in connection with an alleged rampage through pubs in the nationalist village of Coalish, Co Tyrone, in May.

The charges bring to 13 the number of soldiers now awaiting trial in Ulster. The total does not include any charges against members of the locally recruited Royal Irish Regiment.

The alleged offences range from assault to attempted murder and murder. All but two of the soldiers are members of either the Royal Marines or The Parachute Regiment.

An army spokesman said charges against 13 men was not particularly high when compared with the fact that approximately 11,000 men were on duty in Ulster from bases outside the province.

He denied that the figure suggested the army had a serious discipline problem in Northern Ireland. "Some people might want to conclude that, but we wouldn't," he said.

"The training and discipline are such that we expect a lot from them and as far as possible they abide by it. There are times when they fall down and then they have to face the rigours of the law," he said.

Father Denis Faul, the Dungannon priest who has campaigned vigorously against abuses by the security forces, welcomed what he believes is evidence that the authorities are now taking seriously allegations against soldiers, where before they did not. "It simply means the police are attempting to carry out the law, which they did not do for the last 20 years."

Doubts over talks, page 10

LIVING ON A BUDGET — WHAT THE POOR CAN AFFORD

Low Cost Budget		Modest but Adequate Budget	
Examples of items included	Examples of items excluded	Examples of items included	Examples of items excluded
Basic furniture, textiles, and hardware	Antiques, handmade or precious household durables	Basic designs, mass manufactured furniture, textiles and hardware	Antiques, handmade or precious household durables
First aid kit, medicine	Prescription, dental and sight care charges	Prescription, dental & sight care charges	Spectacles, private health care
Fridge, washing machine, lawn mower, vacuum cleaner	Freezer, tumble-dryer, shower, microwave, food-mixer	Fridge-freezer, washing machine, microwave, food-mixer, sewing machine	Tumble-dryer, shower
Basic clothing	Designer, high fashion clothing	Basic clothing, sensible designs	Designer, high fashion clothing
TV, video hire, cassette player, basic camera	Hi-fi, children's TVs, compact discs, camcorders	TV, video hire, basic music system, camera	Children's TVs, compact discs, camcorders
Public transport, children's bikes	Car, adult bikes, caravan, camping equipment	Second-hand 5-year-old car, second-hand adult bicycle, new children's bikes	A second car, caravan, camping equipment, mountain bikes
Clocks, watches	Jewellery	Basic jewellery, watch	Precious jewellery
Hairstcuts	Cosmetics	Basic cosmetics, haircuts	Perfume, hair perm
	Alcohol, smoking	Alcohol: men 14 units, women 10 units	Smoking
Blackpool day-trip	Annual holiday	One-week annual holiday	Holiday abroad
Cinema, visiting museums, historic buildings each twice a year	Concerts, panto, children's ballet, music lessons	Swimming, cycling, football, cinema, panto every two years, youth clubs, scouts/guides	Fishing, water sports, horse-riding, adult classes, children's ballet/musical lessons

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Compulsory scheme starts in 1994

Water company to impose meters on 2m homes

By MARTIN WALLER

COMPULSORY water meters are to be fitted in up to two million homes in East Anglia and surrounding areas because rising population in the region is running hand-in-hand with falling rainfall. The move could price the traditional English garden out of the market, with customers of Anglian Water having to pay for every gallon that passes through their hoses.

Anglian said yesterday that a programme of compulsory meter fitting would begin in April 1994, with up to 30,000 households chosen for the first year.

Anglian is the first of the ten privatised water companies in England and Wales to institute a formal timetable for the metering. Alan Smith, the managing director, said the programme would take 15 to 20 years to complete.

"Anglian Water has the lowest rainfall in the UK, half of the UK average, and it's got the highest population

growth," Mr Smith said. "From the year 2000, we have to find another way of charging." Anglian provides 1.5 million customers with water and two million with sewerage services. "I'm afraid they are going to have less choice once we start the compulsory programme," Mr Smith said.

He denied that a switch to metering would be more profitable for Anglian. The aim

was to pitch the charges so that an average home, using an average amount of water, would not pay more once the changeover was made. But consumers who washed cars or watered gardens would be charged accordingly and would have to choose how much to spray on the grass, Mr Smith said.

Anglia has not yet selected the areas that will be metered first, but they will be where water sources are under most strain. The company will also put the first meters where fitting would be cheapest, for example where existing pipelines have to be renewed.

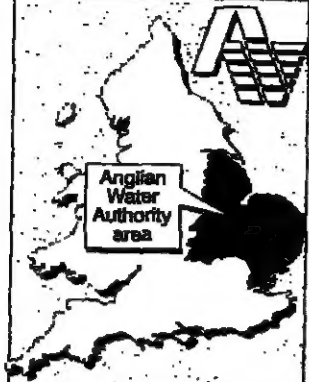
Metering has proved unpopular to consumer groups because it will worst affect those on lowest incomes, in houses with high occupation rates where consumption will be highest.

"We're very conscious of the needs of poorer people," Mr Smith said. "Metering, yes, is likely to increase the charges

on small houses, but frankly, so is every other system." Anglia charges households an average annual fixed rate of £224, the second highest rate in England and Wales. Most garden sprinklers use 220 gallons an hour, equivalent to the consumption of an average family of four over two days. Anglian charges its few existing metered customers 0.25p a gallon, so the same sprinkler would cost 55p an hour to run.

Another worry for householders would be an undetected break in the pipeline, which would make them liable to pay for water they were not aware was being lost. The cost over months could run into thousands of pounds. Mr Smith said Anglian was considering an insurance service for customers, otherwise, he admitted to concerned consumers: "You've got a problem."

Tempus, page 24



Helping hand: Sir Ian McKellen opening the Aids centre yesterday

Actor sees pioneering Aids centre

SIR Ian McKellen joined patients, their relatives and nursing staff yesterday when he opened a centre for Aids sufferers named after a fellow actor and friend who died of the disease three years ago.

The Ian Charleson Centre at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, northwest London, named after the *Chariots of Fire* actor offers day care and counselling, enabling those with Aids to live at home while receiving specialist treatment. It provides diagnostic and support facilities, with the aim of reducing hospital admissions and encouraging home care, and complementary therapies, including massage, relaxation and acupuncture.

Although officially opened yesterday, the centre has operated for more than a year. In the past 12 months, hospital admissions have fallen by 50 per cent, a trend welcomed by patients and staff alike.

The centre's HIV testing service gives "same day" results. Patients are encouraged to call in at any time to share any worries about their medical condition.

DTI men questioned in grants enquiry

The Department of Trade and Industry's East Midlands regional director and a member of the department's Liverpool staff have been questioned and bailed by Merseyside detectives investigating allegations of a £1 million fraud involving government grants.

Police sources yesterday said that a number of businessmen had also been questioned and that more civil servants faced police interviews. The case concerns an ice cream manufacturer based in Merseyside and grants over the past three to four years for job creation that are being examined by officers from the Merseyside fraud squad.

The two men bailed are Bob Anderson, formerly based in Liverpool and now East Midlands regional director of the department, and John McCann, an executive officer in the Liverpool branch office. Police say that the arrests were made some weeks ago and that both men have been released on police bail until next month pending further enquiries.

A spokeswoman for the trade department confirmed that both men were suspended from duty pending the outcome of the police investigation, but the department would not comment further yesterday.

Dockyard jobs warning

The speculated closure of Rosyth dockyard in Fife could have a much wider impact than previously estimated, with the loss of 18,000 jobs and £370 million from the economy. Schools could close, local unemployment would rise to 30 per cent and a key training facility for apprentices would cease to exist, says a report published yesterday for Fife Regional Council, Dunsfermline District Council, the Fraser of Allander Institute, and St Andrews University. The neighbouring naval base would inevitably close.

Long-haul trips boom

Thousands of out-of-work people are spending their redundancy pay on expensive long-haul holidays, encouraging tour operators to scour the world for ever more exotic destinations for clients wanting to forget the recession. In the year to August, the long-haul market grew by 7 per cent, according to a survey by the holiday group, Thomson. Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "Long-haul... works out more for mile cheaper than staying in resorts in Europe."

Plea for conjugal visits

Conjugal and family visits for long-term or high-security prisoners in special suites within prisons are being considered by the Home Office. Ian Dunbar, director of inmate administration, confirmed yesterday that an official had examined the system used in Canada to see if there was an improvement in the prison atmosphere. A Home Office survey of 4,000 prisoners had shown that conjugal visits was the change wanted by the highest proportion — 30 per cent — of prisoners.

Murder suspect bailed

A man detained last week by detectives seeking the murderer of 11-year-old Lesley Molseed, right, who was killed 17 years ago, was released yesterday on police bail. A report on the case has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The 48-year-old man was arrested last Friday on his release from Armley jail, Leeds, at the end of a sentence. He was questioned over the weekend.



Couple win libel case

A former secretary of the North Wales Police Federation and his wife accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper article which wrongly said the wife was having an affair. The report in *The People* in March followed a complaint to the North Wales Police Authority by Harry Templeton that the then deputy chief constable was having an affair with a junior officer's wife. The newspaper stated that the complaint had concerned adultery by his own wife.

Thief grabs judge's wig

A thief sneaked into the chambers of Judge Hugh Jones at Cardiff County Court and stole his horsehair wig, valued at £500, and his box. Court officials were said to be "very, very embarrassed". A lawyer said: "To say the judge was displeased is an understatement. A well-used wig shows some kind of authority and experience so it's no good just going out to get a new one." Judge Jones, a county court judge since 1988 and a circuit judge for nearly a year, was not available for comment.

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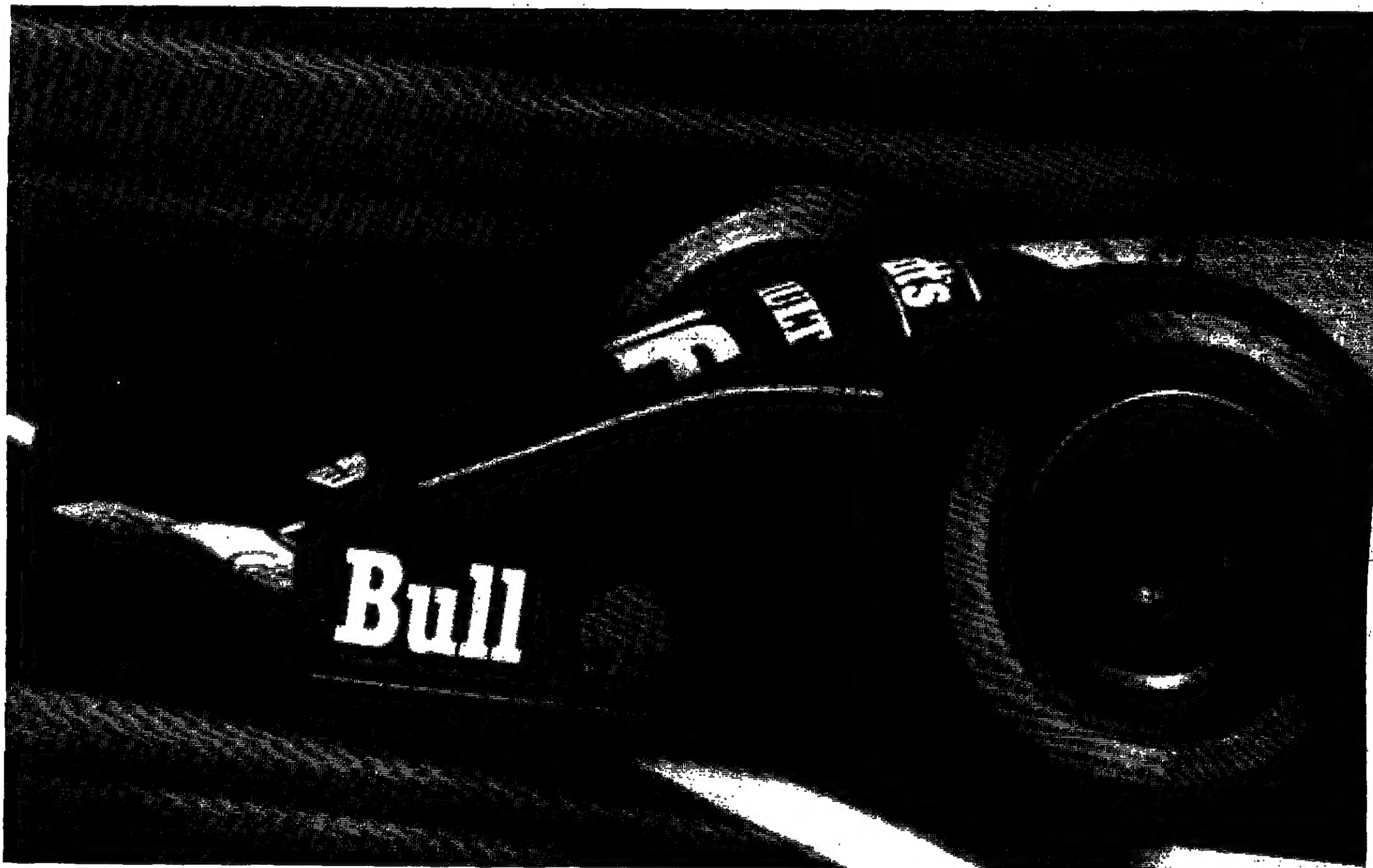
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Red tape threatens to ruin rail sale, managers predict

BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT proposals to break up and sell the national rail network are excessively bureaucratic and will have to be simplified if privatisation is to be successful, rail managers say.

The proliferation of new bodies that ministers believe will be needed to regulate the privatised railway could, moreover, scare off many companies who have expressed interest in the scheme, independent rail analysts predict.

The twin warnings come on the eve of tomorrow's deadline for private sector companies to respond to the government's proposals for franchising passenger services, and weeks before the rail privatisation bill is due to be put before Parliament, probably around Christmas, for royal assent next year.

Under British Rail's existing management structure, 25 divisions manage the route networks that make up the national rail system. They are responsible to the managing directors who run the three passenger businesses.

As Parliament prepares for the rail privatisation bill, rail managers and private sector interests fear that the sell-off could be overwhelmed by bureaucracy

InterCity, Network SouthEast and Regional Railways, who in turn are answerable to the British Rail board. The command structure covers all aspects of railway operations, from the acquisition of rolling stock to the monitoring of safety.

Under privatisation, rail infrastructure would be separated from services. BR would be broken up into its component parts and its command structure would be replaced by a contractual structure. A series of contracts would be needed to regulate the matrix of relations between the new rail bodies, which would result in a substantial increase in bureaucracy.

Railtrack, for example, the BR subsidiary which would run the track and signalling systems, would be responsible for charging private sector operators a fee for running

their trains on the network. A new regulator would vet track charges to ensure that they were fair.

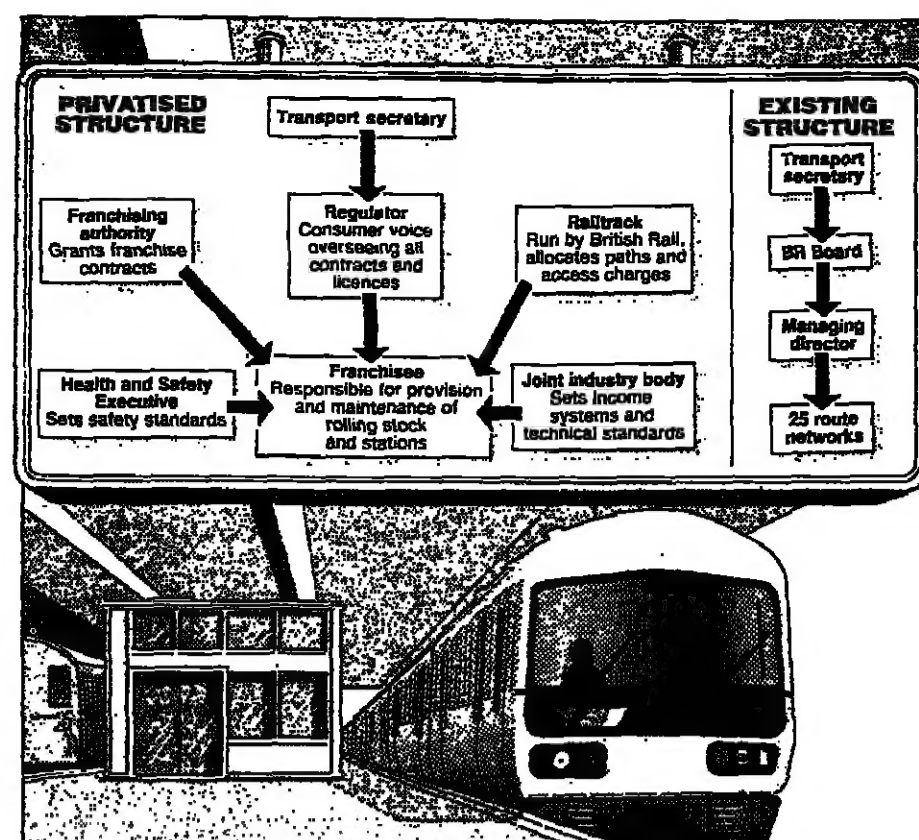
The regulator would also have to work closely with the new franchising authority, which would be responsible for drawing up the conditions for the new passenger franchises, including the level and quality of services. Private sector operators, having successfully bid for a franchise, would then have to obtain an operating licence from the regulator and negotiate track charges and train paths with Railtrack.

Franchisees would have to acquire rolling stock, make provision for its maintenance and negotiate access to any stations that may be sold to private sector developers. Franchisees would also have to deal directly with the new Joint Industry Body, responsible

for dividing revenue between companies running services on the same track, and the Health and Safety Executive, responsible for ensuring safety.

As well as the formidable complexity of the new system, privatisation also raises questions about how the new service would work when things went wrong. What would happen, for instance, if a franchisee went bust? The government says that the franchising authority would have the power to run the concession. But could that be done without disrupting services? If so, who would pay? Moreover, what would happen if the leasing company demanded its trains returned?

Private sector companies that have won franchises could find themselves in competition with other private sector companies interested only in running trains on certain routes, under the open access provisions of rail privatisation. These provisions will effectively encourage rail operators to concentrate their services around the most profitable times of day, which could undermine the financial viability of franchisees.



Pratisation could also threaten the financial viability of rail freight. At present, British Rail's freight operation is required merely to pay a marginal cost for its use of railway infrastructure. If, under the new charging regime, rail freight had to pay its full costs, there would most

likely be a move from rail to roads. That would undermine the government's commitment to shift freight from roads to rail.

Finally, the new system for subsidising loss-making services would make the detailed finances of the railways more transparent than they have been. After privatisation, BR's

block grant for unprofitable services would gradually be replaced with a series of specific grants awarded to franchisees, which would match the needs of individual loss-making routes.

It would soon become clear which lines need most subsidy and, critics fear, which could be closed to cut costs.

Motorist trapped overnight

A MOTORIST who was trapped in his car for eight hours after an accident managed to struggle clear of the wreckage only after breaking a hole in the rear windscreen.

Peter Beer, 58, from Taunton, Somerset, lost control of his Rover saloon on the M5 and catapulted over a safety barrier. The vehicle plunged down a steep embankment and rolled on to its roof, trapping him in a deep ditch out of sight of passing drivers.

He struggled for eight hours to scramble clear, fearing the wreckage would burst into flames at any moment. "I thought someone must have seen the accident and would come to my rescue, but time passed and no one arrived. I could hear the motorway traffic but nobody could see me and I had to wait until dawn to see what I was doing."

"Eventually I knew I would have to get out myself and tried to kick out the back windscreen but couldn't manage it. In the end I had to take the head rest off the front seat and use that."

Mr Beer managed to squeeze through a 12-inch gap in the rear windscreen and raise the alarm.

Teachers criticise head of care home

STAFF at a home for some of the country's most dangerous children have passed a vote of no confidence in their director. Teachers at the Newton Aycliffe Centre in co. Durham accused Dr Masud Hoghugh, in a letter sent to Durham's social services department, of "eccentric and extravagant" management (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The move coincides with the publication of a report by the county council which rejects complaints of physical abuse of children at the centre, but says staff should stop using armlocks to restrain them.

Dr Hoghugh, 54, has been at the forefront of innovative work on dealing with disruptive youngsters and the centre for young serious offenders has attracted experts from all over the world. But the centre has also attracted complaints about the way it operates.

Academic staff now say they are concerned about Dr Hoghugh's management style. The motion of no confidence was supported by 28 of the centre's 32 teachers. In the letter, they said: "We no longer believe Dr Hoghugh's image, style or policies are in the best interests of the centre."

Dr Hoghugh was on holiday yesterday, but a spokesman for the centre's independent board of managers said: "We would never suggest he is incompetent in any way."

Dale wins back its wayward cheese

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PUBLIC pressure has ensured that Wensleydale cheese will again be made in the Yorkshire dale where until last August, when Dairy Crest switched production to Lancashire, it had been produced since medieval times.

The decision by management in Thames Ditton, Surrey, to end cheese-making at its creamery at Hawes in Wensleydale and transfer it across the Pennines was greeted by outrage. A campaign was launched and this week Dairy Crest announced a management buy-out that will return the cheese to its eponymous dale.

Peter Atkinson, a campaign committee member, said: "We were convinced Dairy Crest was determined that cheese production would not start again at the creamery, but the public clamour has made them think again."

He said it was a victory for all those who had fought not only to keep the cheese in its rightful home, but also to preserve jobs at what was a big employer in the town.

Dairy Crest said it was always prepared to sell the business as a going concern provided the price was right.

Only eight people will find work initially, ten more by the end of the year and another six by the summer.

Dispute over estuary ends after 152 years

BY JOHN YOUNG

A CIVIL dispute between the Crown and the Earls of Devon has been settled after more than 150 years.

Under an agreement announced yesterday, the two sides are to divide ownership of the bed of the Exe estuary, in Devon, which has been in dispute since 1840 when Isambard Kingdom Brunel bought land on the north side of the estuary to extend his Great Western Railway from Exeter to Plymouth.

Brunel was reportedly in such a hurry to build the line that, when both the Crown and the earl claimed ownership, he agreed to pay them both. Since then, both sides have argued that the conveyances proved they owned the bed of the estuary. The dispute remained in

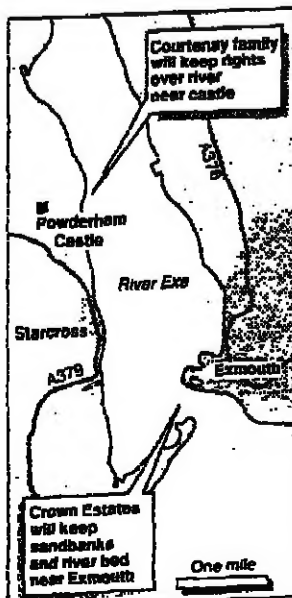
deadlock until last year when Lord Courtenay, a consultant chartered surveyor and son of the present earl, threatened to take the matter to court. The case was listed for a three-week hearing, but has now been settled out of court.

Under the agreement, the Courtenay family will pay a nominal sum to keep most of the river near their home, Powderham Castle, while the Crown Estates will retain the sandbanks and river bed near Exeter. The shallow estuary, familiar to generations of travellers, has long been a popular sailing area, but the dispute has caused confusion over which side was entitled to charge for moorings. Both now will be able to claim an income from the thousands of yachtsmen who use the river.

The agreement is also expected to encourage conservation of the estuary, which is a designated site of special scientific interest and an important breeding and wintering area for birds.

Lord Courtenay said yesterday that his family had owned most of the estuary since they bought the Manor of Keston in the 17th century. But the Crown disputed their claim when Brunel decided to build the railway.

"We should finalise the agreement in the next couple of weeks, and the only minor hold-up is that the sandbanks have moved even since the most recent charts and maps were made," he said. "The dispute has lasted so long because neither side has actually taken it to court."



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Independent girls' schools threaten to boycott tests

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT girls' schools yesterday threatened to boycott next year's national curriculum tests for 14-year-olds, as their president launched a wide-ranging attack on government education policy.

In her opening address to the annual conference of the Girls' Schools Association, Elizabeth Diggory, the headmistress of St Albans High School, criticised increasing ministerial intervention in the national curriculum, called for the reform of A levels and said that present methods of testing risked damage to the wider education of children.

The criticism, which reflects growing unease in the independent sector, came from a source normally loyal to the government. While welcoming the government's praise for independent education in the white paper which formed the basis for the education bill currently before parliament, Miss Diggory regretted the tone of ministerial comments on the teaching profession.

At a press conference yesterday, Miss Diggory said she hoped ministers would take "sensibly educational" motives into account when framing policy. "I believe the independent sector has a role at the moment to draw attention to the concerns felt by all teachers."

Speaking immediately before Baroness Blatch, the education minister, Miss Diggory criticised the "denigration of professionalism" in this summer's white paper. She called for the establishment of a general teaching council to restore public esteem for teachers.

Challenging the need for such regular changes in the national curriculum, as well as the style and scale of testing, she acknowledged that she was questioning the very basis

of government policy on the curriculum. Independent schools, which can choose whether to participate in the tests and the curriculum itself, were reluctant to withdraw from the system, but doubted the need for tests at 14 and were concerned about their possible effects.

"There is a danger that oversimplified testing will have the very opposite of the results intended because too much rote learning of facts will make young minds less adaptable, and we could lose valuable skills," she said. "Are we not at risk of confusing knowledge with learning?"

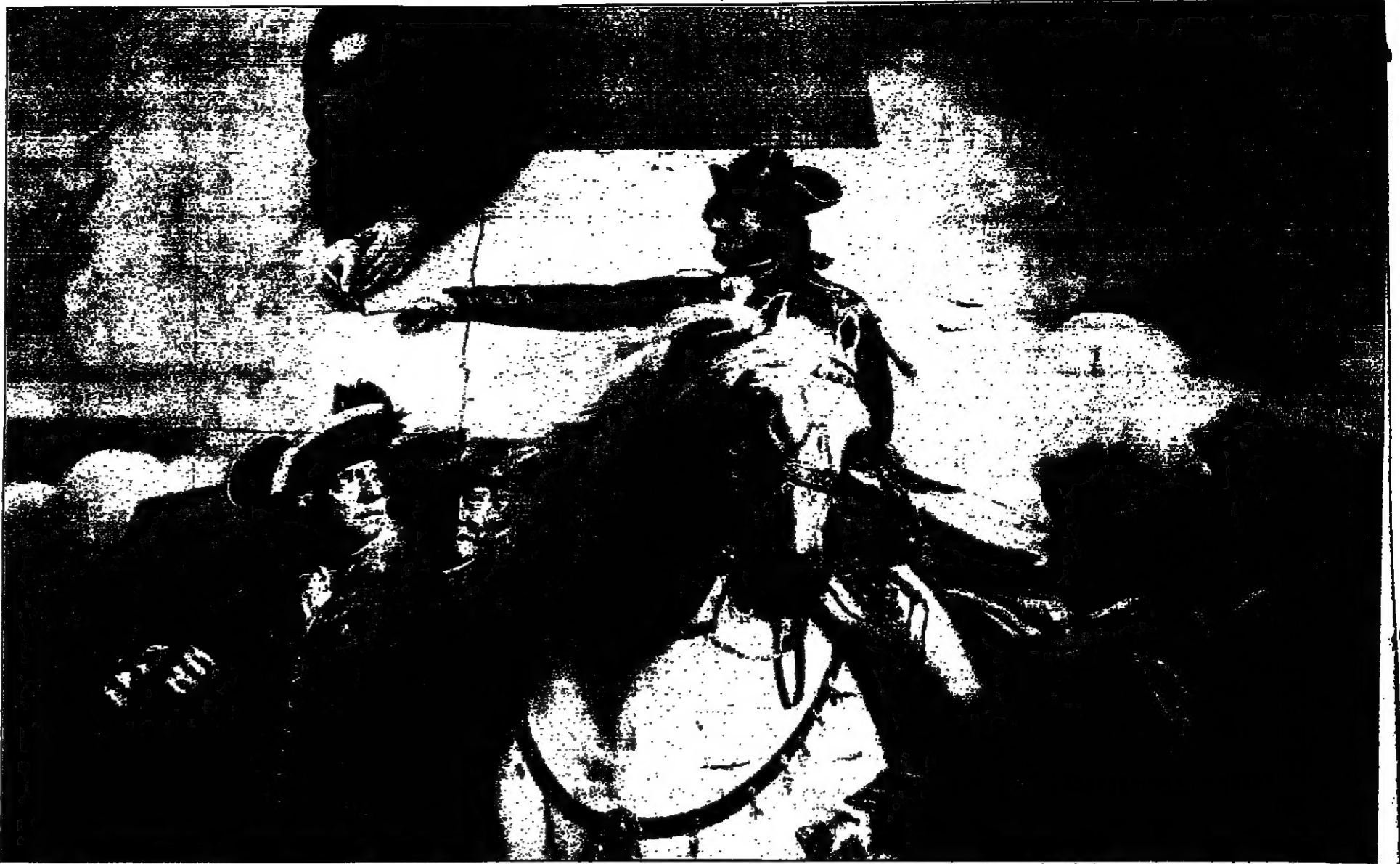
Heads of several girls' schools are considering a withdrawal from next year's tests. The conference, in Bristol, will debate the issue tomorrow, when it will be addressed by Lord Griffiths of Florestach, the chairman of the School Examinations and Assessment Council.

Lady Blatch, in a defensive address, appealed to delegates to wait to see the outline of assessment in 1993, which would take account of criticisms of this year's pilots.

She acknowledged that she had been greeted with "hollow laughter" in trying to reassure the association that the government valued teachers' contributions. But she refused to disown a passage in the white paper stating that parents know "better than our most excellent teachers".

Miss Diggory, one of the senior figures in independent education, used her conference address to encourage sufferers from breast cancer, which she contracted during her term as president of the Association.

Although her activities were curtailed after surgery last Christmas, Miss Diggory maintained a full programme of engagements during her year of office.



Arms and the man Ray Hemmett of English Heritage nears the end of eight years of restoration work on Joan Singleton Copley's giant *Siege*

of *Gibraltar*, which will be returned to its home in Guildhall, London, after more than 50 years. The 18ft by 25ft oil painting, completed by

the American artist in 1791, was removed during the second world war, a few months before the building received a direct hit. It was

rolled up and stored at Swallowfield Park in Berkshire and from 1947 at Newbury, but became damaged. After restoration is completed, Cop-

ley's masterpiece will be rolled and stored again until it can be given pride of place in a new art gallery, which opens at Guildhall in 1996.

Lawyers test video link to jails

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS will be able to talk to their clients in prison via live video link under a trial scheme run jointly with the Home Office and the Bar.

The video-conferencing project is to be set up at Dorchester and Shrewsbury prisons. If extended nationally, it could save millions of pounds a year in criminal legal aid spent on barristers and solicitors visiting prisoners and in waiting time.

Instead of teams of counsel travelling across the country,

barristers will be able to speak to prisoners from the Bar's video-conferencing studio close to Lincoln's Inn in London, for the cost of a telephone call. Prisoners will use a specially equipped room in the prisons. The Bar's studio will also be linked with a studio in Birmingham, so barristers from the Midlands can be in easy reach of clients at Shrewsbury.

Approval for the project came after discussions between the Bar and Peter

Lloyd, the Home Office minister responsible. The idea was put forward in a recent report by the Bar as one of a range of measures to tackle problems in the Crown Court and cut costs and delays.

Robert Seabrook QC, chairman of the committee that produced the report, said: "The whole business of access to prisoners is a huge obstacle both for solicitors and barristers. I hope the Home Office is going to accord the project a high priority."

THERE are a number of landmarks in a writer's life: the first book published, the first good review, the first bad review, the first disappointed glance at the bestseller list, the first book remaindered, and so on. In a couple of weeks, I will reach a major landmark of my own: my first book-signing session.

It seems obligatory for authors to speak of book-signings with a world-weary air of resignation. Only Edward Heath has had the honesty to admit to enjoying the process, hiring trains, planes and automobiles to scour every bookshop in the land so that no copy of his

The way it isn't



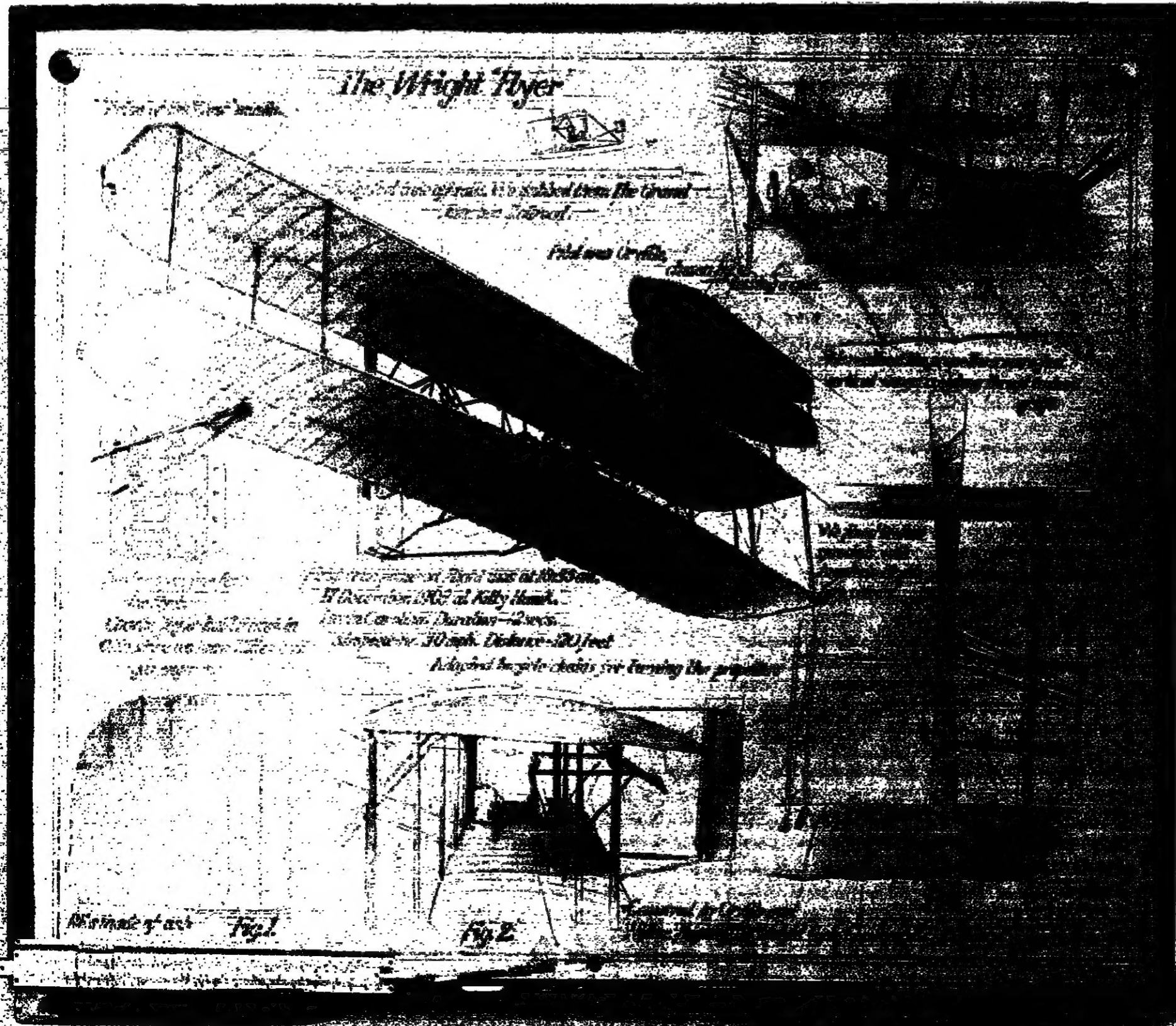
books remained free of his signature. Personally, I have been excited by the prospect ever since its announcement. What could be more pleasurable than writing your own name over and over again while people queue with copies of your book, from

every one of which you stand to make 50p?

There is just one cloud on the horizon. Ten years ago, I wrote a sports book with my brother David. He persuaded a friend who worked for W. H. Smith in Watford to let him sign the store's only copy. The next morning, it was bought by an old woman. Alas, that very afternoon she returned, complaining that someone had been scribbling in her book. "Oh no, madam!" said the friend proudly, "THAT is the author's signature!"

"I don't care what it is," she replied, "I want a clean copy or my money back."

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مكتبة الأصل

German doubts force French to think again over Gatt farm deal

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN leaders yesterday renewed their calls for a quick end to the impasse in the world trade talks amid signs that the disputes of the past week have weakened French opposition to a farm subsidy deal with America.

Germany stepped up pressure on France when Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, said that a deal would have to be done even if French farmers "storm the city halls". John Major told the House of Commons that he wanted to see an agreement in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks "in a matter of weeks at the outside".

A meeting of Gatt ambassadors in Geneva instructed Arthur Dunkel, the organisation's director-general, to fly to Brussels and Washington to help restart talks. European Commission spokesmen said that Mr Dunkel would not be acting as a broker for detailed bargaining.

Jacques Delors, president of

Pressures to avert a trade war are so intense that now even France is talking of a deal being reached in a matter of weeks

the European Commission which negotiates trade policy for the 12 EC states, said in The Hague that he hoped for a deal before the Community's summit in Edinburgh on December 11. M Delors said that he was more optimistic than he had been ten days ago because EC foreign ministers had agreed a "common position, a dynamic position, with goodwill to conclude a fair and balanced agreement" on Monday.

M Delors also welcomed the direct involvement of Mr Dunkel in helping to break the deadlocked trade negotiations. But he was outraged by suggestions that he had intervened to prevent a deal on the crucial oilseeds issue at talks in Chicago last week. Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner, resigned last week as chief negotiator in the trade talks with the United States

and implied that M Delors had interfered and failed to give him support.

"I am scandalised because during my eight years at the head of the Commission I have always supported the decisions taken by the Commission... and my colleagues," M Delors said. Questioned whether he intended to resign, he said: "Why? I am in good health."

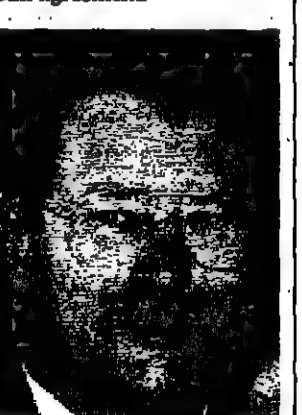
He refused to be drawn on whether he agreed with President Mitterrand's criticism of British delays in ratifying the Maastricht treaty. "I have no comment. I am president of the European Commission, not a French politician," he said.

M Delors' optimism about a deal chimed with the moderate tone adopted on Monday by Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, who told his colleagues that a deal could be struck before the deadline of December 5. M Dumas also accepted that the EC would make no public reference to possible retaliation over threatened US sanctions.

Punitive American tariffs are due to be levied after December 5 on selected European agricultural products, principally French white wine. Dr Kinkel said that retaliation could lead to a vicious circle of import restrictions and would be "the stupidest thing we could do".

Mitterrand's television broadcast on Monday, although highly critical of Mr Major's delay in ratifying the Maastricht treaty, also avoided the obstructive language in which French ministers have addressed the trade talks over the past weeks.

The shift in French tone appears to be the result of growing impatience from the German government which is coming under belated but fierce pressure from its exporters to do all it can to avoid an all-out trade war. Dr Kinkel told German radio that a compromise was essential and that "France will in the end have to join in". German diplomats confirm that the French government has warned Bonn that people might be killed in agricultural riots following an unpopular Gatt agreement.



Kinkel said French must make a deal

While German industry is now bitterly critical of both France and M Delors over Gatt, German farmers who are themselves largely responsible for the problems over oilseed subsidies have called for the EC to maintain its stand. Baron Constantin von Heereman, president of the German farmers' association, was quoted yesterday as saying that Europe should wait to negotiate with the Clinton administration after it takes over from President Bush in January, because the new president would not wish to begin his term of office with a transatlantic trade war.

Rescue mission, page 1



Oil magnate Arthur Dunkel, Gatt director-general, gesturing during trade negotiations yesterday after he was appointed oilseed mediator in the dispute between the United States and the European Community

Honecker hearings will raise awkward questions

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN BONN

Erich Honecker will come out fighting at his trial, which begins in Berlin tomorrow — and he has a lot of material to fight with. His chief argument will be that this is a West German show trial aimed at the former East German state.

The trial has been called "the most spectacular legal process on German soil since Nuremberg" and raises not just legal questions, but also moral and historical ones that many Germans would prefer to forget.

Herr Honecker, 80, and his five elderly colleagues are being charged with responsibility for the killing of people trying to escape to the West. They are the survivors of a meeting of the National Defence Council in 1974, at which Herr Honecker is supposed to have said: "As before, firearms must be ruthlessly employed in the case of attempts to cross the frontier. Comrades who have used their weapons successfully are to be congratulated."

Although 50 cases have been filed against Herr Honecker, only 12 cases involving 13 deaths will be set out in the charge-sheet.

Actions are also being brought by some victims' families. A fortnight ago two East German border guards who shot dead an escapee were jailed. Their sentencing ended any possibility that the trial might be dropped because of his age and ill health; morally, it would be impossible to punish ordinary soldiers and let the men who gave the orders go free.

Herr Honecker's lawyers however will try to delay proceedings. It is possible that the cancer from which Herr Honecker is suffering will kill him before the trial ends.

Herr Honecker's initial argument was that Germany had no right to try him for actions committed under the law of another state which was a member of the United Nations. Thus, he is being charged under East German and West German law.

Herr Honecker has claimed that some West German politicians welcomed the Berlin Wall because it stabilised East Germany. There is enough truth in this to be embarrassing for Bonn. Helmut Kohl's government adopted so thoroughly the *Ostpolitik* of its Social Democratic predecessors that in the last years of East Germany it seemed concerned above all to prevent dissent and maintain calm. It is now clear the Honecker regime would have fallen earlier, had it not been for West German subsidies.



Honecker: may die before trial ends

French stay loyal to peasant roots

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FOR a quick lesson on France's obstructive stance at the world trade negotiations, take a look at an unlikely hit now nesting high among the heavy metal and teen tunes of the Paris pop charts.

Called *Les Mariés de Vendée*, the record is a folk song about a peasant wedding in western France. In the video, played endlessly on the rock channels, Anais and Didier Barbelivien, decked in 17th-century smocks, farm-gear and electric guitar, belt out the rock song while dancing jigs with the farmworkers.

The success of the song and video, set centuries from the Euro-future over Gatt (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), explains eloquently why France, from factory workers to opposition politicians, stands firm behind President Mitterrand in his seemingly irrational determination to risk trade war with Washington and isolation among his country partners over the humble sunflower, colza and soybean.

The great majority of the French may now live in the towns and cities, but *la campagne* and its traditions are the landscape of the French soul. That psyche is already wounded enough by the heavy new cuts in subsidies from the common agricultural policy, the bountiful machine that Charles de Gaulle crafted three decades ago as France's price for entering into partnership with defeated Germany.

Rational or not, the idea that the family farms that dominate much of the landscape must give up more of their livelihood to the Americans, of all people, stirs high emotion. The equivalent in Britain would be, say, a German demand that England should start scrapping cricket pitches and pubs.

Britain and other more densely populated states of the North broke their rural tie a century or decades earlier than France, which still has a million small farms. The country also boasts a highly efficient and adaptable farm sector, boosting France's position as the second biggest food exporter in the world after America.

While market forces reign around the world, an army of experts, including economists and sociologists, are fighting

to justify the need to maintain national and Community subsidies that reached about £10 billion a year in the late 1980s.

Dr Francis Agricola renders a triple service, says Jean Dupuis, a businessman and banker who heads "Earth and Civilisation", an agricultural lobby group. "These are assuring the security of food supplies, husbanding the land and transmitting the rhythms of nature to the human environment." The fall of the Roman Empire gave birth to French civilisation through the countryside, M Dupuis and like-thinkers say. Without thriving small farms, France would no longer exist. The government must introduce a special fiscal regime and other mechanisms to guarantee its survival, he wrote in *Le Monde* this week.

Armand Fremont, a distinguished academic who is rector of the Versailles education authority, says a policy must be found to safeguard a way of life that preserves "the ineffable beauties of France". While some grassroots farmers' groups are committed to resisting change to the end, government experts are encouraging peasant farmers to enter new fields. One approach is to specialise in high-quality traditional products such as cheese, small wines, quality poultry, foies gras and red fruits. Another is aimed at developing the tourist resources, turning farms into gites and high-quality camping sites. That approach is, of course, as detested among the older generation as the Community demand to set aside fields to fallow. Whatever course is followed, the small farmers are expected to dwindle to somewhere between half and three-quarters of a million in the next few years.

Almost all senior politicians, including President Mitterrand, boast roots in the countryside and the imperative of easing the agony of the peasant farmers is one of the few issues on which they all agree. That is why they tolerate the daily outrages by angry farmers. In the latest, wine-growers in the Pyrenees yesterday attacked two Spanish tanker lorries and dumped their contents, 600,000 litres of white wine, on to the motorway.

EC closes its mind to open doors

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH attempts to open the arcane workings of the European Community's decision-making system to greater public scrutiny are running into a wall of resistance in the rest of Europe.

This week's EC foreign ministers' council was the latest of several confidential discussions on greater "transparency" before the Community's Edinburgh summit next month, which is supposed to decide how the EC can become more user-friendly. The ministers persuaded Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary — astonished to find himself cast as the radical — that Europe can unite only behind closed doors.

The depth of this breathtaking conservatism can be appreciated only by reading the proposals — confidential, of course — which Britain put to the meeting. Obtained with relative ease by *The Times*, they are staggeringly timid. The paper admits that a majority of states are against opening any ministerial meetings in Brussels. It argues that the public might see such access as "a stage-managed public relations exercise".

The one man who could hardly believe his ears when Mr Hurd's mild adjustments were shouted down was Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, for whose sake EC governments are trying to become more accessible and accountable. "Bureaucratic protectionism," he snorted afterwards.

Hurd rejects Mitterrand's criticism over Maastricht

BY MICHAEL BINYON
AND PHILIP WINTER

John Major's dilemma over the timing of parliamentary ratification of the treaty is hardening

AS BRITAIN'S European Community partners yesterday expressed increasing concern over its delay in ratifying the Maastricht treaty, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, played down President Mitterrand's claim that the delay was "unacceptable".

"At the end of the day a treaty delayed is better than a treaty lost," he said. He admitted that the delay was bound to be regretted in EC capitals, especially those which had already ratified the treaty. But he said that he had explained the government's difficulties at Monday's meeting of Community foreign ministers, and had found understanding and an increasing belief that Britain would ratify the treaty in the end.

But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, increased John Major's dilemma over the timing of ratification by announcing that his party's support for the Maastricht bill would be withdrawn if the government was seen to be delaying for too long and waiting on the Danes. At the same time, however, the Tory right gave the prime minister clear warning that they expect him to abide by his promise that the final Commons vote on the bill would not be until after the second Danish referendum.

Mr Major, who is under pressure to spell out his intentions in the event of the Danish referendum being delayed beyond next May, is thus caught in the crossfire between the two groups whose support was essential to his

the committee stages would involve the most detailed scrutiny of the treaty in any EC state.

Mr Hurd would not guarantee that the third reading of the bill would not be until next autumn. "We hope and expect that it will pass these stages during the current session."

Mr Major himself will not say what will happen if the Danish referendum is delayed beyond May — the right want him to make plain that he will wait for the Danes if they have good reason for delaying their referendum, and the pro-Europeans want him to say that he would press on regardless.

In a letter to Mr Major last night Mr Ashdown gave the first indication that he would pull the rug from under the government if it delayed beyond May. He told Mr Major that his party had long believed that the bill's detailed stage would take until the spring. However, there was a big difference between this and waiting for the Danish referendum.

Mr Ashdown said the confusion about the government's posture was damaging Mr Major's authority and undermining his presidency of the Community.

He then warned: "You should understand that you can only count on the support of the Liberal Democrats in the committee stage of the bill for as long as you continue to show the urgency that is necessary to get Maastricht ratified as soon as possible and clear up the uncertainty over Britain's future in Europe, which is doing so much damage to our prospects of economic recovery."

Ex-ministers face trial over HIV blood scandal

BY CHARLES BREMNER

THE French opposition moved yesterday to create a parliamentary court to try former ministers over the blood transfusion scandal after President Mitterrand signalled his support for the action in a television address aimed at limiting the damage to his administration.

The Gaullist RPR and the centrist UDF grouping approved plans to elect 12 deputies to join 12 senators on the High Court, a body created under the 1958 constitution to try government ministers. It could hear arguments for the impeachment of Georges Dufoix and Edmond Hervé, the former health minister and her deputy, who were in charge in 1985 when the

national blood transfusion service ordered the distribution of stocks known to be contaminated with HIV. Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister and now leader of Mitterrand's Socialist Party, might also be called to account.

Three senior health officials were given prison sentences two weeks ago for their part in the scandal. The affair has dominated the political scene for months and threatens to intensify when an appeal court reopens the case next year, probably around the time of parliamentary elections in March. Mitterrand, who is deeply unpopular, said he believed the court should be set in motion, although it was a "bungled, hybrid" mechanism that had never concluded

any case since it was devised. Many politicians have demanded a reform that would allow ministers to be tried in normal courts.

Mitterrand, who said he was in good shape despite his prostate cancer, offered an apology to the hundreds of families affected by the scandal. Over 300 people, mostly haemophiliacs, have died so far. "I want each family that has been hurt to know our immense distress and that the nation owes them a form of national solidarity, a sort of apology," the president said. A snap opinion poll showed that only 35 per cent of the public found his words convincing.

The opposition noted that it was unlikely that the political court would ever reach a conclusion, and it accused M

Mitterrand of seeking to sow confusion by combining the blood issue with an announcement of plans for reforming the constitution. "It was classic Mitterrand," Nicolas Sarkozy, a senior figure in the RPR, said. "When you have a problem, create confusion."

The conservative *Figaro* warned the opposition, already fiercely divided over who should lead a future government and run for the presidency, against falling into "the trap" that Mitterrand had set.

Mitterrand, who has long denounced the Fifth Republic as a "permanent coup d'état" but has thrived in its powerful presidential office, said he was not seeking to open a "Sixth Republic". He said he would propose reforms

in up to seven areas, including limiting the presidential term of office. The seven-year renewable term — Mitterrand is 18 months from the end of his second term — is widely unpopular. He said he also wants to improve the balance of power between parliament and the government, guarantee the independence of justice and increase the scope for referendums.

He would submit the proposals to the presidents of both houses of parliament and the constitutional court by the end of this month, but did not expect them to be adopted until after next year's general election. Mitterrand said he had no plans of leaving his post if the opposition wins the elections and forms a new government.

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Divided views on Bosnia condemn Britain to the sidelines



Lord Owen: obedience is not a Balkan strength

BRITISH troops have been fired on in Bosnia and it is only a matter of time before the first British soldiers are killed. When it happens — there is little "if" about it — the victims will be the first British battle fatalities on continental Europe since the second world war — a grim milestone.

Before blood is spilt, Britain should work out what it wants to do in former Yugoslavia. As president of the European Community, Britain has made even less progress than Portugal. Every one of the Serb promises made at the London peace conference this summer has been broken. Lord Carrington gave up as chief peace negotiator and Lord Owen is finding that, while his Balkan partners are surprisingly well-mannered, they simply do not do as they are told.

The Yugoslav drama is not a single, but a multiple, crisis.

Before blood of British troops is spilt in Bosnia, the government should work out what it really wants to do in the former Yugoslavia, writes Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent

and it cannot be solved at a stroke. Priorities have to be established. Is it more urgent to stop the fighting in Bosnia or to prevent war spreading to Macedonia and Kosovo? Is it more useful to bring down the Serbian regime or to prop it up, in the hope that it will be able to bring the militias to heel? What comes first: getting refugees to safety or opposing "ethnic cleansing"? And is the West in a position to make anything happen at all?

The British commitment of a 2,000-man defence force was a popular move within Britain and the European Community. In the rest of Europe, there is a perception that rough soldiering is what

Britain does best. Yet the decision to send in soldiers was intended to choke, rather than advance, the cause of military intervention. With a strictly defined humanitarian mission, the soldiers were viewed by the politicians more as Salvation Army men in armour than as gun-blazing peace enforcers. The Cheshire and their support units are there not as the result of a thought-through strategy, but as a way of avoiding real political decisions.

True, a useful priority has been determined: to feed and clothe the hundreds of thousands of displaced Bosnians as the winter sets in. But British policy does not appear to go

beyond this sticking-plaster approach. Three months ago Charles Wardle, parliamentary under-secretary at the Home Office, said that Britain "has fully respected the call of the UN High Commission for Refugees not to raise visa barriers against the arrival of refugees from the republics of the former Yugoslavia". Last week, the government announced that it would impose visa restrictions on Bosnians. The nearest place that a Bosnian Muslim can obtain a visa is Belgrade.

Is this of no concern to Britain? Croatia has taken in almost 700,000 refugees and its economy has reached breaking point. Even tiny

Slovenia has accepted more refugees than the British government has allowed in.

The British political establishment is torn — as it has been for 18 months — between regarding the Balkan war as essentially a spectator event and viewing it as a crisis that defies solution until "the warring parties have exhausted themselves" (Lord Carrington's words). Both views seem to condemn Britain to a kind of passivity. Yet there are common sense steps that can be taken quickly and will allow Britain and the EC to stay ahead of events.

□ Britain, as president of the European Community, can co-ordinate refugee efforts more energetically. Europe-wide national quotas should be set, and Croatia should be given help in coping with its huge refugee population; □ Urgent interest should be shown in Kosovo with the aim

of protecting the ethnic Albanians there;

□ Britain has a history of intelligent understanding of Serbian domestic politics and should exploit this. In particular, the Serbian ally, Montenegro, should be encouraged to distance itself from the present regime.

But now that there are soldiers on the ground, Britain has to devise a coherent strategy that takes both military and political risks into account. For example, what should Britain do if the Serbs cut off the supply lines to the British military base in Vitez and place the soldiers under siege? Does Britain call in aircraft to shell Serb positions, or does it withdraw?

Without clear political aims, these soldiers are operating in a void. The army was aware of course that the strict UN rules of engagement would tie their hands in combat. But they

should be more concerned at the fuzzy political thinking in Whitehall that is defining their mission.

The most plausible strategy proposed has come from the French: to set up protection zones for displaced people within Bosnia. The critics of that idea say that such zones will perpetuate the practice of "ethnic cleansing", that non-Serbs will be crowded under a United Nations umbrella while the Serbs consolidate their recent gains. But that risk has to be taken. It is intolerable that refugees can be strafed by Serb aircraft or peppered by mortar fire. An air exclusion zone over Bosnia has to be enforced rigidly.

There is no swift or facile political solution to the crisis, but until a lasting and just settlement is found British and other UN soldiers should be used with more intelligence and imagination.

Spanish unit secures mountain road as UK troops arrive in Split

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN SPLIT

BRITAIN'S military contribution to the humanitarian relief operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina moved up a gear yesterday with the arrival in Split of the first soldiers from the main party of troops.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment and the 9th/12th Lancers flew into the Croatian airport from Gutersloh in Germany on board an American C130 Hercules. The first batch of 180 soldiers will be followed by a succession of flights until Sunday.

With the Warrior, Scimitar and Spartan armoured vehicles due to arrive in the port this morning, a five-day logistics operation will begin to transport the equipment along the hazardous mountain route to Vitez, the main British base in central Bosnia. As the British infantry battalion group builds up to its full strength of 2,400 men and women, a Spanish military unit yesterday began a vital reconnaissance of the area around Mostar, where fierce fighting is continuing. The Mostar road may have to become the troops' main supply route to Vitez if the present mountain track from Tomislavgrad becomes blocked with snow.

The Spanish, who are responsible for the Mostar area and hope to set up their base near the city, will have a key role to play if the British efforts are not to be frustrated by the wintry conditions in the mountains. Colonel Francisco Zorzo, commander of the 700-strong Spanish Legion, vowed yesterday that his men would carve a safe passage along the

■ UK involvement has moved into a serious phase. Despite foreign commitment, fighting rages on

Mostar to Sarajevo road, which is now at the centre of a battle between Croats and Muslims on the west side and Serbs on the east. "When winter comes, I think the only supply route from the south will be along this road," Colonel Zorzo said.

The Spanish reconnaissance team set out from the port of Split to Metkovic and up through Jablanica to Mostar. Colonel Zorzo said they were advised not to go through Mostar, but they pushed on regardless.

On Sunday a brigade of the HVO, Croatian right-wing extremists, launched an attack across the road against the Serbs and destroyed up to seven villages. The Serbs threatened to target Dubrovnik, Mostar and Zagreb if the Croats did not stop. There were further reports of fighting in the area yesterday. Colonel Zorzo said his men would fire back if they were attacked, as the British soldiers did last Saturday. The Spanish reconnaissance team was travelling in huge armoured vehicles which have 25mm cannons.

Once the road approaches Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, the British could switch to a track west of the city at the town of Tarcin, as they approach Vitez. British reconnaissance trips north of Vitez towards Tuzla, where the shooting incident happened,

will soon begin in earnest with the arrival today of the Scimitars and Spartans. These will protect soldiers from small arms fire.

Four squadrons will carry out the reconnaissance work for the relief convoys. Major Adam Abraham, commander of B Squadron of the 9th/12th Lancers, which will be involved, said the shooting incident showed the importance of "careful recon". He said: "We will pay due attention to all the information we can get and will move as stealthily as possible. The great thing is not to rush. We need time."

The reconnaissance parties will have interpreters with them. The Scimitars will be the first to leave the *Rosa Dan* roll-on roll-off vessel at Split this morning and they will head off towards Tomislavgrad and up the mountain track. They will act as pickets along the route as the 30-ton Warriors are brought up in stages. The Warriors, which run on tracks, will be taken off low loaders at Tomislavgrad and will complete the mountain route on their own steam.

Trooper Tristram Wilson, a 22-year-old gunner in Major Abraham's B Squadron, said yesterday: "Obviously I'm a bit apprehensive, but that's a good thing. We're the best trained army in the world and I'm sure we'll do a good job."

One of the youngest members of the squadron, Trooper Gareth Manger, 19, said he had served in Northern Ireland and believed it was going to be "an interesting experience" in Bosnia.

In the Bosnian capital yesterday hundreds of Muslim and Croat women and children wept as they boarded Red Cross buses destined for Croatia. A 1,000-strong group of Serb families was due to leave for Belgrade in a second convoy. The Bosnian Red Cross hopes to move 6,000 people altogether, but only 14 of the expected 26 buses turned up in Sarajevo.

United Nations peacekeepers dismissed the evacuation as a form of "ethnic cleansing" and refused to protect the convoy as it headed for hostile Serb lines and a 105-mile trek through mountains to Split.

Muslim, Croat and Serb negotiators in the capital agreed yesterday to an unconditional ceasefire from Thursday. Brigadier Roddy Simpson, the chief of staff to Major General Philippe Morillon, the UN commander-in-chief, said that the accord had been achieved after "lengthy negotiations" and "goodwill on all sides".



Into action: Sapper Scott Hazel, Private Sonja Norton and Lance Corporal Mark Sinclair of the Royal Air Force wait at Gutersloh barracks in Germany yesterday prior to joining other British soldiers in the United Nations relief forces in the Croatian port of Split

Hatred scars a smiling landscape

In mountains torn by vicious fighting, British troops must keep open a supply route to thousands of starving refugees, writes Michael Evans in Vitez

THE half a dozen Croat HVO soldiers in the Suncer restaurant, about 40 miles west of Sarajevo, roared in unison: "We're Fascists. Hitler! Hitler! Hitler!" They had been comparatively quiet until one of my companions spoke to the waiter in German.

The presence of today's version of the Ustashi, Nazi sympathisers responsible for the massacre of about 400,000 Serbs in the second world war, was a reminder of the historical hatred that fuels this war. There are men here in Bosnia-Herzegovina who are driven by a frightening messianic mission.

The soldiers eventually left, the tyres of their cars screeching on the tarmac, drowning the sound of distant artillery fire which appeared to be coming from the hills above the town of Turbe. It is the turn of Turbe to suffer the Serbian hatred, which is as messianic as the Croats'. Turbe will fall, then probably Travnik. Nothing will stop the Serbs from advancing south.

The war has been raging for more than seven months. But in spite of the appalling bloodshed, "ethnic cleansing" and suffering among the thousands of refugees, there are large sections of the country

where it is impossible to believe that a war is going on. Driving through the countryside in the largely Croatian southwest, a lone soldier with a Kalashnikov slung over his shoulder or the red-and-white chequered flag of the Croatian forces in Bosnia, represent the only evidence of communities at war.

Occasionally there are extraordinary examples of normality amid scenes of devastation. None more so than in Prozor, which used to be a pleasant town set in a deep valley until the Croatian HVO arrived and drove the Muslim inhabitants out, torching their homes.

As you enter Prozor, the chalet-style houses at the top of the hill are undamaged. But the apparent tranquillity is deceptive. Once you turn the corner, the change is dramatic. Every house has been wrecked, every shop a mass of broken glass and blackened timber.

Prozor is on the list of

potentially dangerous places for the United Nations soldiers, including British, who drive up from Split in convoys. The drivers stop just outside the town and put on their flak jackets.

The 30-mile mountain section of the supply route from Split to Vitez in central Bosnia, a distance of 150 miles, is such that the fear of being pounced on by maverick drunken militia comes second to the struggle to prevent the car disintegrating from the pounding given by the potholes, rocks, sharp stones and sudden dips. The soldiers call this the Ho Chi Minh trail, or the Khyber Pass.

When the snows come, this mountain track which represents the lifeline for the starving refugees in central Bosnia could become cut off. Even in the present clement weather, the route can become blocked with an extraordinary array of vehicles. Since this is the only safe way to reach Vitez on the other side of the mountain,

avoiding Serb positions, everyone and their wife uses it.

Up in the mountains along the new Serbian front lines overlooking Travnik, Turbe and Vitez, where the British are based in a primary school, are the Chetniks, the Serbian irregulars, wild men with long beards and, reputedly, LSD pills in their pockets, the counterparts to the fascists. Croats in the restaurant, confronting this assortment of vicious fighters with grievances that go back decades, the British soldiers are taking to their task of distributing aid and preparing for the rigours of a bitter winter.

The main party of the Cheshire Regiment arrived yesterday from Germany. But the engineers and advance party soldiers have already performed miracles, creating accommodation, heating and kitchens out of abandoned warehouses. They might even be able to do something about the Khyber Pass. In less than a day, they set up a mountain camp halfway up. The night of a heavy British rain driving a bulldozer up the track to improve its surface will probably do as much for the morale of the people stuck in this war as a bag of flour or the promise of a few extra blankets.

Soldiers wrap up for long winter

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE soldiers arriving at Split have been equipped with Arctic weather clothing, anticipating temperatures as low as minus 17C.

Each soldier has been given thermal long johns and vest, quilted under-trousers, quilted jacket, a woolly camouflaged hat with ear flaps, a Gortex jacket, thick woollen Arctic socks, gloves and high-neck combat boots. The soldiers also have new waterproof, down-filled sleeping bags.

During the Falklands campaign in 1982, the soldiers complained that their boots let in water and caused trench foot. The latest design comes well above the ankle and is guaranteed not to leak.

The 2,400 troops, who will be operational by November 17, will be deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina for six months. Although they have been sent as peacekeepers, the battalion infantry group based around the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment have brought with them weaponry and armoured vehicles to retaliate under fire if necessary.

Their main protective vehicle is the 30-ton armoured Warrior infantry fighting vehicle. Seven fully equipped infantrymen can sit in the back, which has been fitted with extra Chobham armour protection plates, as it was in the Gulf. The vehicle is armed with a 30mm cannon, which can fire 900 armour-piercing rounds per minute, and a 7.62mm chin gun.

There are also 24 Scimitar and reconnaissance vehicles and a few Sultan command vehicles. The Scimitar, a light reconnaissance tank, armed with the same 30mm cannon, has a top speed of 50mph. All the armour will arrive in Split early this morning. The soldiers each have SA80 rifles, with telescopic night sights, and 7.62mm machineguns that can be fitted to the Scimitar. They have also been brought. The infantry battalion has Milan anti-tank missiles and 81mm mortars with a range of more than three miles and a 15 rounds-a-minute firing rate.



Wolves of war circle their Macedonian prey

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SKOPJE

MACEDONIANS believe that they can hear the baying of the wolves of war, historically the Albanians, Serbs, Greeks and Bulgarians.

As in the Balkan wars of 80 years ago, the wolves are refusing to place open blame for last week's events, but that does not stop them hunting. Macedonians point the finger at ethnic Albanians or at Serbia. The Albanians point at the Macedonian ministry of the interior, saying that the whole event was staged to dramatise the country's situation to force international recognition.

Macedonia is still denied recognition today, despite meeting the European Community's criteria, because Greece claims that its name implies territorial pretensions on its own northern

keeper, said. "Lots of our people work abroad so we have lots of money. We'll buy guns."

Politicians on all sides are refusing to place open blame for last week's events, but that does not stop them hunting. Macedonians point the finger at ethnic Albanians or at Serbia. The Albanians point at the Macedonian ministry of the interior, saying that the whole event was staged to dramatise the country's situation to force international recognition.

Macedonia is still denied recognition today, despite meeting the European Community's criteria, because Greece claims that its name implies territorial pretensions on its own northern

province. As a result, Macedonia languishes in a twilight zone, denied access to foreign credit and with its economy in tatters.

Everyone agrees, however, that there is a bigger threat than the one posed by Greece. Of Macedonia's two million people, perhaps a third are ethnic Albanians. Their fate is intimately entwined with that of their kinsmen in the overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo in southern Serbia. "What we fear most is a massive attack on Kosovo leading to a flight of Albanians here which in turn would lead to Serb intervention," Ivo Risti, an Albanian intellectual, said.


This is a fear shared by



Branko Cvenkovi, Macedonia's prime minister. But he goes one further in accusing the Greeks of actively encouraging Serbia. "They are going from meeting to meeting, hoping that something will come up which will prevent recognition, and that something is conflict. That is why the Greeks have such close relations with Belgrade," he said.

Macedonians and Albanians are divided among themselves on the issue. Everybody is terrified of war, but there is a feeling of drift towards open conflict. Eyes that have been transfixed by the chaos in Bosnia are looking southwards.

"My family is spread through four countries now," said Arsim Zekati, an ethnic Albanian social worker. "We simply cannot support this. He favours a Macedonian confederation and then possibly union with Albania. Asked how the Macedonians could be persuaded to accept such a confederation, he replied in the true spirit of modern Balkan politics: 'Ever seen The Godfather? Someone might make them an offer they cannot refuse — to be or not to be.'"

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Israeli armour masses after rocket barrage on Lebanese border

FROM ALI JABER
IN BEIRUT
AND BEN LYNFIELD
IN JERUSALEM

ROCKETS and shells were fired on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border yesterday after Katyusha rockets of pro-Iranian Hezbollah militants crashed on to the Galilee area for the second day.

Reports from Israel's security zone said that Israeli armoured columns were seen crossing the border and taking up positions facing Shia villages where Hezbollah fighters have set up bases.

The heightened tensions came a day after Arab and Israeli negotiators reconvened for a seventh round of peace talks in Washington. Fares



Boueiz, the Lebanese foreign minister, said that the Lebanese army had been ordered to respond with full force. He said that Lebanon would "not be dragged into this Israeli trap", and ordered the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks in Washington to ignore the Israeli "provocation", which he says is aimed at forcing Beirut to withdraw from the peace process.

Last month an eruption of Israeli-Hezbollah violence also

cast a shadow over the talks, as Israel massed troops along the border after a 14-year-old boy was killed by a rocket in the Galilee town of Kiryat Shmona.

Mordechai Gur, Israel's deputy defence minister, said yesterday that Israel would not restrain itself indefinitely if warnings issued to Lebanon and Syria during the latest round of Middle East peace talks did not succeed in stopping the attacks.

He said: "It must be made clear to residents of south Lebanon who lodge the Hezbollah, and to Lebanese leaders, that if our residents in the north cannot live in peace, life on the Lebanese side will not be easy either."

The escalation in violence was triggered by a Hezbollah ambush on a South Lebanon Army (SLA) patrol near the eastern edge of the security zone. A statement by Hezbollah said three patrol members were killed or wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in their path.

The night before, Hezbollah fired some 55 rockets into the security zone and Israel's western Galilee region. The barages caused no casualties or damage, but forced thousands of Israelis to stay in shelters and cancel school.

Fundamentalist sources said yesterday that the rocket attacks were part of Hezbollah's new strategy against Israel's raids on south Lebanon.

Its leaders vowed on Friday to "kill a Jew in Israel for every Lebanese civilian they kill here". They said the rocket attacks were in response to an Israeli air force raid against eastern Lebanon on Sunday.

Washington: Bush administration officials are holding the idea of James Baker, the former Secretary of State, making one more trip to the Middle East before Bill Clinton takes office, in a bid to galvanise the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

A spokesman for Mr Clinton indicated that he would support such a mission. One of Mr Clinton's foreign policy advisers, writing anonymously in the Washington publication *Middle East Insight*, even suggested that the Clinton administration should retain Mr Baker as its Middle East envoy.

Initial Israeli response was unenthusiastic. Yossi Gal, the Israeli delegation spokesman in Washington, said his government would give such a proposal "serious consideration". But the Israelis fear that Mr Baker might exert undue pressure on them in his eagerness to get results.

Leading article, page 17

Homeland corruption exposed

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN OFFICIAL investigation into the government of the impoverished South African black homeland of Lebowa has unearthed incompetence and corruption on a vast scale. The results of the enquiry were disclosed soon after the resignation on Monday of Stoffel van der Merwe, the secretary-general of South Africa's ruling National party, amid a scandal over administrative corruption under apartheid.

Mr van der Merwe, who is close to President de Klerk, is the third senior National party member to resign this year and the second to go amid allegations of corruption in black homelands, although he said that he was resigning for personal reasons.

Turks say they will quit Iraq

FROM ANDREW FINCH
IN ANKARA

TURKEY, flushed with success after its attacks on the guerrilla camps of the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has given assurances through a diplomatic delegation to the Iraqi Kurdish leadership that its troops still operating in northern Iraq will withdraw. The foreign ministry indicated that Turkish forces are expected to pull out over the next two weeks.

One conservative estimate is that Turkey in alliance with the peshmarga armies of the Iraqi Kurds have killed about 1,200 members of the PKK and captured at least twice that number. Among those said to have surrendered to the peshmargas is Osman Ocalan, a PKK commander.

There is little doubt that Turkish forces, having overrun the PKK's warren of mountain caves, have disrupted its ability to wage a separatist campaign in Turkey from the other side of the border. Turkey's priority will now be to prevent the PKK from regrouping next spring.

Turks accused: Amnesty International accused Turkey yesterday of failing to improve its human rights record despite promising tough action. It said that the torture of political prisoners and the random killing of civilians continued unabated, especially among the Kurds.



Edge of violence: Anan Mabut, allegedly high on amphetamines, holds a cleaver to the throat of a woman hostage in Bangkok before surrendering to police

Patten flies home to report on wrangles with Peking

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, will return to London this weekend to brief John Major about his recent controversial visit to Peking and a series of verbal clashes with Chinese leaders.

For better or worse, it is a different Hong Kong — a cauldron of angry argument, pointed fingers and big headlines — that Mr Patten leaves today. He will visit Canada first.

"He is like a breath of fresh air — he has stirred things up, got people involved and does not dodge questions," an American executive in Hong Kong said.

Not everybody believes that the new governor is a good thing. Communist party apparatchiks, who have attacked vigorously Mr Patten's ideas for expanding democracy in the colony, have found some odd bedfellows in the con-

servative business community. On Monday, the Business and Professionals Federation declared its opposition to the democracy plan, saying that it could lead to Hong Kong's political structure being dismantled by China after the handover by Britain in 1997.

Other bankers and captains of industry have added their own criticisms, prompting one diplomat to say: "Some businessmen do not have convictions, or at least do not have the courage of their convictions."

Roger Thomas, chairman of the Retail Management Association, noted that a few powerful people were claiming to speak for all local businessmen. "That is arrogant nonsense," he said. "The [federation] represents only a very small splinter of business."

However, on the eve of his departure for Canada, where he is likely to receive official endorsement for his proposals, the governor had an "ice-breaking" meeting with Zhou Nan, director of the New China News Agency, and China's top figure here, for the first time since Mr Patten made his policy speech on October 7. The Chinese are quietly seething that opinion polls indicate that 62 per cent of Hong Kong Chinese support the governor's stance.

When Mr Patten arrives in London he will meet Zhu Rongji, deputy prime minister and the man in charge of the economy. He emerged as a protégé of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, at the recent 14th Communist Party congress in Peking. Mr Zhu is to hold talks with Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Diary, page 16

Jordan jails MPs for plot with Iran to topple Husain

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

LEITH Shubellat, 49, and Yaqoub Qarrash, 40, popular pro-Islamic deputies in the Jordanian parliament, were both sentenced to 20 years' hard labour by a military court in Amman yesterday. They were convicted of plotting with Iran to overthrow King Husain's moderate Hashemite monarchy.

The five-week trial has threatened stability in Jordan, which plays a vital role in the Middle East peace process now in progress in Washington. It coincided with speculation that the king, who has ruled for 40 years, might soon be forced to abdicate as a result of the cancer for which he had surgery recently.

Senior Jordanian officials insisted yesterday that both the succession and the country's stability were assured in spite of threats from authoritarian neighbours. The throne is due to pass first to Prince Hassan, the king's younger brother, and then to Ali, his eldest son by the late Queen Alia. Despite this assurance, however, many Jordanians still fear that the departure of the monarch, now at the peak of his popularity, could quickly plunge the country into chaos.

The chief military judge said in delivering yesterday's verdict that the court was not imposing the death penalty because the two deputies had no previous criminal records. They had also not used the arms and explosives found in their possession. The judge said Shubellat had formed an illegal organisation, known as Shab al-Nafeer al-Islami (Vanguard of the Islamic Youth), after meeting Iranian officials "at the highest level" in Tehran in 1990.

The verdict came after accusations by senior officials in Cairo that Iran is also financing a growing wave of Islamic terrorism in Egypt. Both King Husain and President Mubarak, the Egyptian leader, are implacable opponents of efforts to convert their countries into Iranian-style theocratic states.

Two Jordanian shopkeepers were also convicted of belonging to the shadowy group and sentenced to ten years' hard labour. All four men were arrested in August in a move seen as an attempt by the government to deliver a tough warning to Islamic radicals.

Islamic fundamentalists made sweeping gains in the 1989 parliamentary elections, which set a trend later repeated elsewhere in the Arab world, including Algeria and, more recently, Kuwait. They won 22 seats to form the largest bloc in the House, a result known to have angered the king.

The convicted men can appeal against yesterday's verdicts, but any appeal must first

be approved by the prime minister and ratified by the king. Legal sources said it was possible that the king would grant pardons but, if he did, the law would prevent the deputies from seeking political office ever again.

Violence worsens: Islamic violence in Upper Egypt is continuing to worsen, with police reporting yesterday that six people were wounded on Monday in several attacks by Muslim extremists armed with homemade bombs and knives. They said security forces had detained 79 suspected fundamentalists after the incidents in Assiut and Dairut, where a British tourist was killed recently in a terrorist attack.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Perot attacks Bush 'abuse of power'

Washington: Ross Perot accused the Republicans of gross abuse of federal power after learning that the State Department had searched his passport files during the presidential election campaign (Jamie Deamer writes).

The search took place about two weeks after Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting Secretary of State, denounced his officials for carrying out similar tactics against Bill Clinton.

Police chief

Moscow: Vladimir Pankratov, a professional policeman, has replaced Arkadi Murashev, a liberal young politician, as commander of the Moscow-based police and interior ministry peacekeeping forces.

Pupils killed

Cairo: Eighteen children and eight teachers died when a bus collided with an articulated lorry on a road near the Red Sea port of Safage. Another 17 passengers were admitted to hospital. The lorry driver was arrested. (AP)

Cyprus vote

New York: The UN is to pass a resolution criticising the leadership of the Turkish minority on Cyprus for blocking progress towards the creation of a federal Cypriot state after talks ended in stalemate.

Chechen alert

Moscow: General Dzokhar Dudayev, president of the breakaway region of Chechnya, declared a state of emergency after Russian troops massed on the border. (AP)

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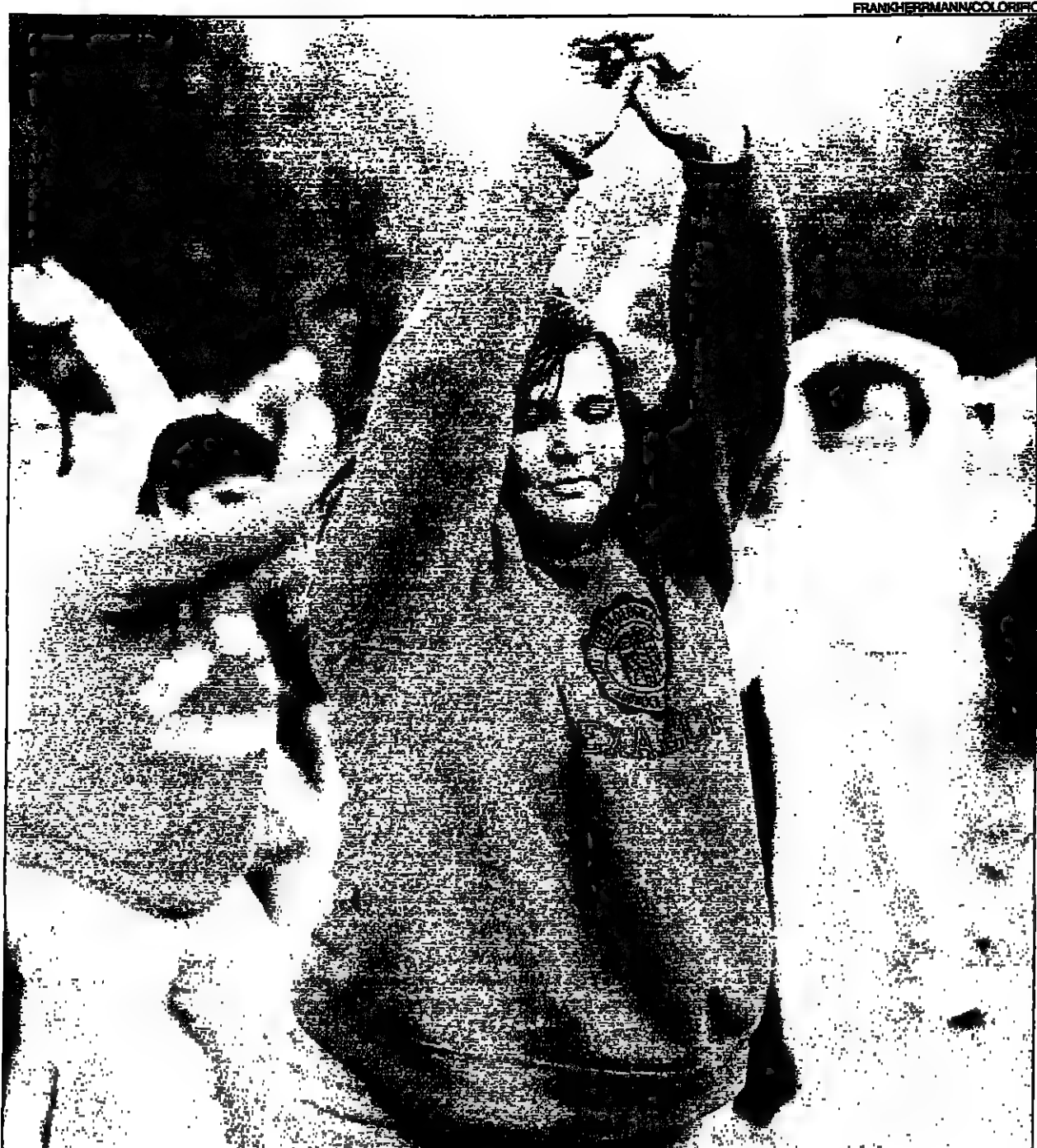
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Overweight but active: children should do at least three 20-minute sessions of leg stretching exercise per week

Switch that thing off and get outside

Why should children take more exercise? Victoria McKee reports on the latest grown-up theories

Yet another report has condemned British children as a generation of couch potatoes, living in a world of virtual reality rather than romping in the real one. A two-year study of Cambridgeshire schoolchildren, partly funded out of a £30,000 grant from the Sports Council, concluded that the majority of seven to 11-year-olds do not have the standard level of fitness skills for their age groups.

Those with the lowest scores came from middle-class homes with more facilities to keep them indoors, such as television, video and home computers, the report suggests. "The children from the more deprived areas performed better at kicking, throwing, jumping and running," says Gary Latham, the assistant director of leisure for Peterborough, who coordinated the study. "But those from affluent areas, who didn't play as much in the parks and on the streets, lacked these basic skills. The object of our study was not to assess fitness but to look at what could be done to improve the situation."

The study points out that there are more sporting and recreational activities available for children than ever before. Some, such as gymnasium classes for babies as young as six months old which are on offer through organisations such as Tumble Tots (which charges £2.50 for one 45 minute session a week and

boasts 56,000 young devotees nationwide), are only for those who can afford to pay. But others, such as mini versions of adult games from short tennis and Kwik Cricket to "new age" — non contact — rugby, are organised by sporting bodies and are often available free of charge.

But while the variety of activities increases children are living an increasingly isolated existence, ferried to and from school — and even sporting events — by well-meaning parents, and spending hours watching soap operas and playing computer games instead of enjoying old-fashioned rough-and-tumble outside with their friends.

"What's missing is the middle ground," says Margaret McGowan, of the National Children's Play and Recreation Unit, an independent arm of the Sports Council which yesterday produced its own report deploring the lack of adequate outdoor play facilities for many children in both city and countryside.

"Ferrying your children to organised sporting activities once or twice a week is not the same as old-fashioned play and the constant activity it involves," Ms McGowan says. "Children used to play out of doors for hours, with a great feeling of contentment. Now they may be driven to the swimming pool, swim for half an hour, and then clamour for sweets. Organisations such as Tumble Tots touch only the periphery of childhood, and for only a short time each week."

Dr Neil Armstrong, the reader in exercise science at the University of Exeter, whose studies on children's fitness highlighted high cholesterol levels in 11-year-olds, is also worried about the poor provision of physical education in schools.

"Although PE became part of the National Curriculum from this September, so it must be taught, there is no stipulation on how long it should be taught," Dr Armstrong says. "It can be for as little as ten minutes a week, whereas the minimum recommended by the Sport and School Committee of the House of Commons is for two hours a week."

"Back in 1987, 38 per cent of state school pupils were getting less than this, and that number had nearly doubled to 71 per cent by 1990. The National Curriculum has only served to squeeze it out further, and 56 per cent of primary schools, according to a 1992 survey by the National Association of Head Teachers, find they cannot deliver the new curriculum for PE."

Dr Armstrong, however, is surprised that the Cambridgeshire study suggests it is children from better off families

who are worse off physically. "Working-class homes tend to have more TV and computers, and you can see more satellite dishes on the houses, whereas the middle-classes tend to take more advantage of structured exercise," he says. "And the TOYA (training of young athletes) study by the Sports Council showed how much it can cost parents to give their children a good standard of sports. Some sports can be horrendously expensive, when you count the cost of transporting, buying the right gear, paying for lessons, joining a club."

Mr Latham confirms that even the "more affluent" families in his survey would probably come into the category of

"The first rule is to be active yourself, and involve your children"

lower middle-class rather than upper middle-class, and so does not dispute Dr Armstrong's observations.

So what is a parent to do? Dr Armstrong says that if average children are not receiving two hours PE per week at school, parents should make sure that they do at least three 20-minute sessions of leg stretching exercise, such as running, walking, swimming, cycling or dancing, per week. But most important, he says, is setting an active example. "One of the things that came through our work is how important parents are as role models. Children take on board what their parents are doing, rather than what they are saying. As they get older they copy their parents' habits — taking the lift instead of the stairs, riding in a bus or car instead of walking. So the first rule is to be active yourself, and involve your children by taking them on nature walks, cycle rides, and so on."

"Second, try to support your children taking activities. My own son, who's 16, trains for athletics, and I have to take him — drive him — to the athletics track because it's quite a way, and collect him afterwards. Encourage them to join groups such as Cubs and Brownies which encourage activity."

"Help them to find activities they enjoy. There is no point in forcing children to participate in water polo at school if they hate it. But there will be some activities they will like."

"Finally, remember that violent exercise can be as dangerous as too little exercise for

children. Children's bones aren't up for marathon running — they need to wait until they've completely ossified (generally over 16) for that. The same is true with weight-training and strength exercises — permanent damage can be done."

Both Dr Armstrong and Mr Latham agree that the solution is to make activity more interesting, as well as more accessible. "Parents should lobby politicians for affordable local leisure facilities which are open at a time children can attend," Dr Armstrong says.

He believes that there is a general consensus on the need for children to take the suggested three 20 minute sessions of exercise per week but says there has not yet been much research done on the optimum amounts of exercise for children.

His studies so far have shown that "over half the girls and over a third of boys aged 11-16 didn't experience the equivalent of a ten minute walk in a week". These children were found to have "adverse" lipid profiles — 20 per cent with cholesterol levels above those recommended for adults, and cholesterol levels should rise with age.

"We believe this is storing up big problems for the future, and the UK already leads the death league for coronary heart disease in the Western world," Dr Armstrong says. He says there is evidence that those who become active when young are more likely to stay active older.

Mr Latham and Peterborough Council are now trying to get schoolchildren who are apathetic about activity involved with "mini-sports" designed for their capabilities, to supplement their PE curriculum. The objective is "to make sport fun for them again", he says, "to get children back to playing games."

Organisations interested in encouraging games and exercise for children include the following: Tumble Tots (021-585 7003) to be put in touch with a local franchise; National Cricket Association, (071-289 6098) for the nearest school or club which organises games of Kwik Cricket; the Lawn Tennis Association (071-385 4233) for local short tennis groups and advice on equipment; the British Amateur Rugby League Association (via Brian Chambers, National Coaching Co-ordinator: 0925 265487) and the Rugby Football Union (081-892 8161) will give information on "mini" or "new age" rugby groups in your area or how to start one up. The Sports Council (071-388 1277) provides an information pack called "Teaching children to play games", aimed at primary school teachers. National Children's Play and Recreation Unit (071-383 5455) can give information on sporting organisations and the National Playing Fields Association (071-584 6445) will give information on outdoor and playing fields facilities throughout the country.

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INTERCITY

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Pass the stout, please. The American magazine *Longevity* — a journal for those who lust after eternal life — shocked subscribers this month by suggesting that, for the over-40s, "fatter is more flattering".

The article contrasted such full-faced figures as Roseanne Arnold, Bette Midler and Twiggy (who has put on a few pounds since her Twiglet days) favourably against emaciated "social X-rays" such as Nan Kempner and Jackie Onassis.

You can, the magazine warned, be too thin — if not too rich. It quotes a leading American plastic surgeon as explaining that thin women wrinkle more noticeably because they have so little fat to stop the skin from sagging — and that surgery is less successful because there is little fat to work with.

While conventional medical thinking is still that surplus fat can contribute to heart disease and other ailments, there is evidence to support the theory that a well-upholstered frame provides a cushion against some of the ravages of old age. Dr Reubin Andres, the clinical director of the Gerontology Research Center of the US National Institute on Aging, says "in men and women the best body weight associated with survival increases with age."

Dr Andres, who analysed data on morbidity and mortality from insurance companies, found that "the best weight for young people is lower than those recommended on the weight charts, when you hit 40 those recommended weights are about correct, and when you get into the fifties and sixties the best weight for survival is maybe 15 or 20 pounds more".



Nicely rounded: the stars of Roseanne

"It is the segment of the population that tends to put on a small amount of weight as the years go by that survives — best," Dr Andres says. "Middle-aged, spread may be Nature's way of storing up fat for times — and carrying one's own intrinsic stores helps people through chemotherapy and radiotherapy and other things that put a terrible strain on the biology of the body."

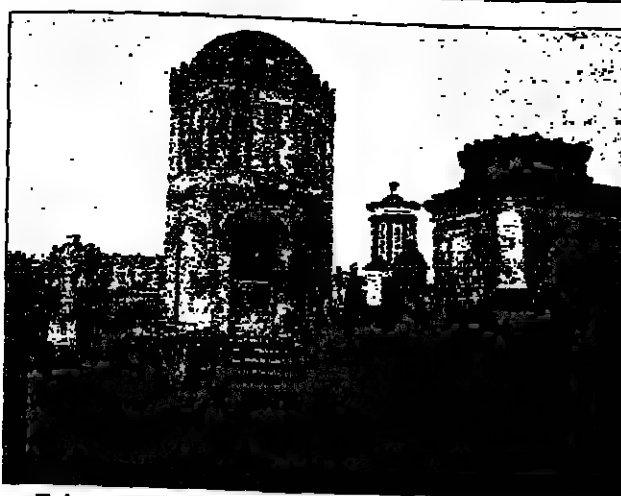
Dr Andres's work is not concerned with appearance — he is interested only in health and longevity. But in Britain, Dr David Weeks, who has studied 3,000 "super young" — people who look 20 to 30 years younger than their age — has reached similar

conclusions about optimum weight levels. "The 'super young' tended to be average weight or about a stone above it. They did not go in for excessive slimming but ate sensibly."

Dr Weeks, a clinical psychologist, found that "there was a genetic link with mood, energy levels and metabolism: those with a basically optimistic outlook, which these people were, would say 'this is a minor weight gain, but those who are sceptical, pessimistic, and cynical would say 'this is the first sign of a downward decline into age and decay'."

According to Professor Malcolm Whitehead of King's College London — a medical advisor to the Amaran Trust, the menopause research charity — fatter women frequently have an easier time at menopause than their slimmer sisters because fat produces its own oestrogen. The message seems to be that a few more pounds, on your waist if not in your pocket, are not to be eschewed.

Architects are being challenged to create a mausoleum that is a celebration of life. Callum Murray reports



Exit worthy of aspiration: the Glasgow Necropolis

A higher death by design

Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington, north London, is not in the modern, open, rolling lawns tradition. Narrow alleys wind between 150-year-old avenues of trees. Ivy has run wild, climbing up and engulfing headstones. Occasionally a Victorian stone angel can be seen hovering above the thickets of brambles.

The headstones themselves are set back-to-back, side-to-side and face-to-face. Burials took place here regularly until the early 1970s, when practically every available piece of ground, including the edges of the avenues, was filled up. If you stand in one of the alleys looking into the wilderness, the headstones range from the small, mean and recent at the front to the sombre and magnificent memorials of the last century at the back.

Abney Park is the site of a new and unusual competition being launched by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) today for the design of a mausoleum. For the purposes of the competition, a site has been suggested on the last piece of ground that has yet to be dug: the strip of lawn to one side of the approach route, just inside the main gates. This is, however, an "ideas" competition which means that the winning design may never be built. If it is, it need not necessarily be built at Abney Park.

The promoter of the compe-

tion — the person putting up the prize money, which totals £5,500 — is Bob Borzello, the founder of Camden Graphics, a well-known name in the manufacture of greetings cards. The mausoleum is to be designed with him in mind.

Mr Borzello was brought up in Chicago, of an Italian-American family, and came to England in the late 1960s. During his time in the UK he has noticed that people have what he calls a "bad attitude" to death. "People are almost ashamed of it," he says. He reserves his deepest scorn for the plastic name signs found in remembrance gardens at crematoria. "They look like things you would find in a market," he says. "Apples, 30p," he says.

Mr Borzello is a small, brown, fit-looking 56-year-old with thick, black eyebrows and close-cropped grey hair. He looks Italian, although it is nearly a hundred years since his family moved to America. His upbringing was heavily influenced by his Italian parents. "Death was a big ritual," he says. "The phone would ring. 'Uncle Carlo's dead,' someone would say. You were always going to funerals and wakes."

Twice a year, the family would go to "decorate" the graves. "The whole car would be filled with plants," he remembers. "At Christmas, you'd spread what were called fir tree 'blankets' on the grave. You'd spend the whole day,

Death was a big ritual. You were always going to funerals and wakes



In his own image: Bob Borzello, in Abney Park Cemetery, wants a change from the traditional "monument to death"

You'd bring salami sandwiches and wine."

He was particularly impressed by a cemetery in Chicago called Graceland, where the great architects Louis Sullivan and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe are buried. "The monuments are wonderful," he says. "I generally got interested in architecture through that." The idea of holding an architectural competition for the design of a mausoleum started as a joke, however, when he was on holiday with friends in Italy. He had noticed that Italian graves were much more personalised than the ones in this country. One tombstone of

a young boy was even carved in the shape of an American football helmet, to show that he had been a fan of that sport. Mr Borzello's idea was that a mausoleum could throw light not only on the person it commemorated, but also on the age in which he or she lived. "I thought it would be interesting to have a video," he says. "You could have a person's whole life story, including photos and newsreels."

The brief for the competition, which is open only to architects, calls for "an imaginative break from, rather than a development of, the traditional mausoleum". Mr Borzello says that he is looking

for something that will reflect his own view; that "life is jolly, and death is just death". Is there not a danger that the competition will attract the merely trendy, a fashionable, impermanent architecture of wavy glass and steel which will look sadly out of keeping among the more dignified of Abney Park's memorials? "I don't want a tent," Mr Borzello responds succinctly. The building will have to be durable.

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A more modest burial

Hanging loose with Hillary

If he'd taken fashion into account, President Bush could have seen his fate rushing towards him like a two-ton truck. As America prepared to vote, New York's designers were forecasting a total wipeout of Republican values. Not that the information would have forewarned Bush one little bit. As far as fashion was concerned, that was that he'd had it.

On the New York runways, every last remaining shred of the style that had been so successful during the Reagan/Bush administrations looked irredeemably past it — out of place, out of time, almost craven in its lack of imagination.

Every single shape, form, colour and texture of the past 12 conservative years was thrown out in favour of its exact opposite. Where there was short and tight, now there is long and loose. Where colour was solid and opaque, there is now diaphanous print. Sharp has been replaced by soft, formal by informal. Short, hard hairstyles have grown long and unkempt. Status dressing has been undone by the bohemian principle and free and easy youthfulness has thrown out uptight old age.

Among all this, what is most significant is the visible fashion coalition between two generations, the young and the young middle-aged — in other words, the ones who joined together and swept Bill Clinton in. Broadly speaking, Seventh Avenue's younger designers, such as Marc Jacobs and Christian Frances Roth, agree with their elders, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren — in just the way that today's American teenagers have turned out to share, rather than challenge, the beliefs of their former hippy parents.

In the 1980s fashion — led by the American designers — excluded the young in favour of making a bullet-proof image for workaholic corporate achievers in their thirties. Now, they've changed their allegiance. Calvin Klein and Donna Karan have declared that power dressing is over; Ralph Lauren switched overnight from doing men's pin-striped suits for women last season, to presenting gentle, floppy stuff in his show last week.

All these designers touch on 1960s and 1970s fashion — print frocks, bellbottoms, long hair, tunics, caftans — though the result is never so drolly literal as it looked in Milan. Meanwhile, the truly teenage extreme of the look is Grunge, a supposedly anti-fashion movement that mixes up hippy and punk — two styles invented by its parents' generation in the 1960s and 1970s. Grunge comes out of Seattle and affects a certain wildness of behaviour, lack of hair-



SARAH MOWER

washing and looking like you slept in your clothes — but is essentially non-aggressive and tends to charm rather than alarm Mom and Dad.

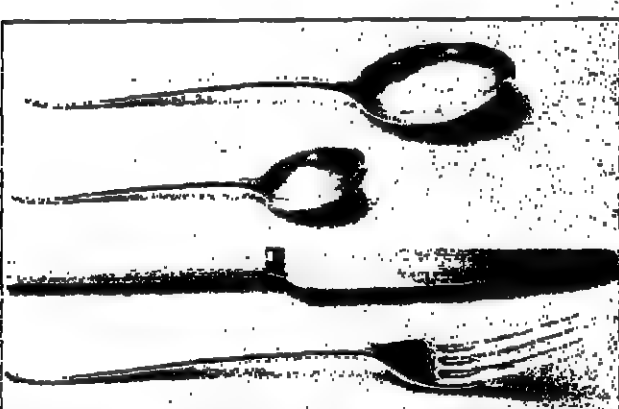
One worry in all this warm-hearted cross-generational liberalism is: where does it leave the woman? On the runways, the 6ft Amazons have been chased away by pale, flat-chested 16-year-old nymphs. Every time a go-to-work grey wool suit passes by, fashion editors scarcely suppress their yawns. Among the ranks of the Donna Karan audience, whisperings broke out about how these fragile, wispy layers of georgette were going to stand up to breakfast meetings — let alone children. No-one carp about the beauty of the stuff — but where, they worried, would they wear it?

American fashion, like American politics, is re-focusing on what goes down at home. Because women are still the symbolic vehicle of cultural aspirations, that means they're being offered relentlessly domestic dressing — transparent housecoats, chignon aprons and visible underwear — and not a stitch to put on to go to work. It began to remind me of what happened to Hillary Clinton, who had to be pushed back into the kitchen, made to shut up and look prettier.

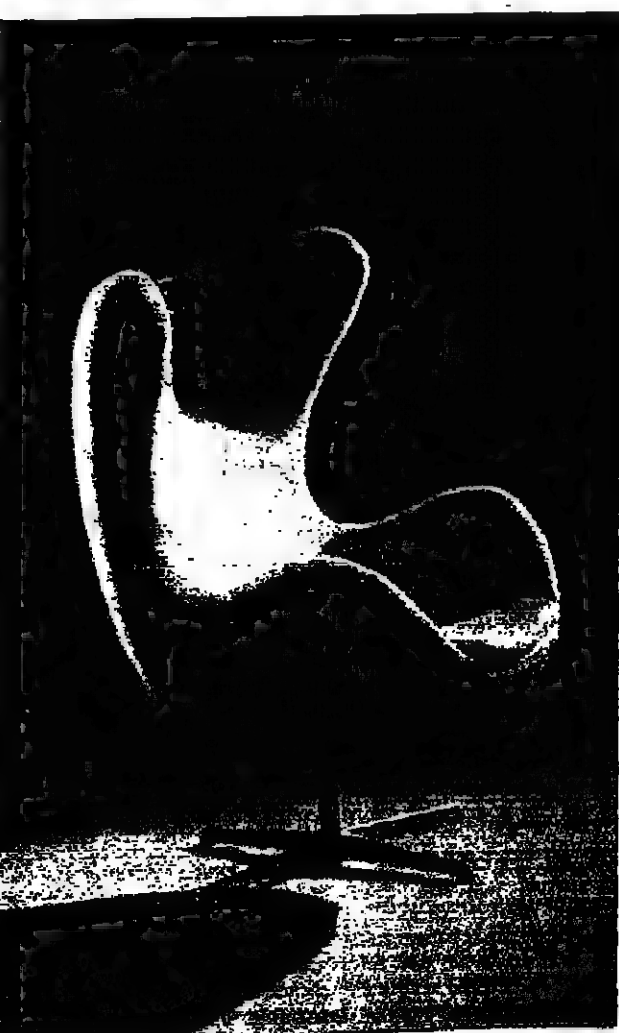
It won't last. Just as Hillary will never be able to bite her tongue for long, so the American woman at large will prove remarkably mulish in the face of clothes that don't fit her self-image. The image conveyed by all the peace and love stuff is not about to push her backwards. On one point though, the nostalgia is nicely congruent with the mood among American women. The one thing designers consistently fail to mention about the late 1960s and early 1970s is that they also saw the feminist movement soar to the height of fashion. With Hillary in the White House, the election of more women to the Senate, and the emergence of the Third Wave of feminism, the signs are that women — and their daughters — are about to remind America of that fact in a big way.

The Scandinavian style warriors invade again

Everybody remembers G-Plan and long-necked blue vases, but does Nordic design still have relevance?



Trend setting: David Mellor's Scandinavian-style cutlery influenced a new generation of designers



An enduring Scandinavian classic: this "Egg Chair" of 1957, by Arne Jacobsen, has never gone out of style

Scandinavian Modern — the phrase has a clean-lined, post-Festival of Britain, blonde and rather sexy ring to it all that athletic, pale beech furniture of the 1950s and 1960s set against thuddingly strong orange and pink Marimekko fabrics from Heal's.

For some, however, this image of the Nordic hey-day of design is not at all the one that springs to mind. For them there linger only the ponderous G-Plan interpretations of the theme, together with endless long-necked blue glass bottles. But now Ikea, the Swedish furniture giant, has devoured a newly bleached pine and terracotta Habitat and is firmly poised to assert all of its considerable muscle in the high street. And a new and expertly mounted exhibition at the Design Museum, minutely exploring the whole Scandinavian design ethic, is extremely welcome.

The show looks back to the beginnings in 1930 — paying due respect to, among others, the great Finnish architect and designer Alvar Aalto, while delivering a meaty retrospective of all the simultaneously loved and hated "contemporary" stuff, which in this country took us roughly from *The Young Ones* to *A Hard Day's Night*. The most stimulating part of the exhibition, however, looks to the present and the future. Does Scandinavian design have a future? Indeed, since its golden period, has there been any progress at all? If you think not, this really rather groovy exhibition will make you think again: when, after all, did you last see a chair upholstered in lime-green catfish skin?

But the more modestly-sized and accessible items will most appeal to the British: a brilliantly simple egg-timer, for instance, by Mads Odgaard of Denmark, comprising a small black, calibrated wheel set in a coloured arrowhead base, whose point serves as the time indicator — priced at only £11. Different and appealing, too, are the black square grill pans with blue handles from Norway by a designer with the un-Norwegian name of John R S Houghton.

The Finnish designer Brita Flander contributes a stunning pendant light — a gently curved sheet of frosted plate glass hung from long, elegantly graduated nylon cords, spaced like guitar strings. Also from Finland, by that country's leading designer, Stefan Lindfors, is, to the terminally acquisitive, one of the most desirable objects of all — a fabulous adjustable desk lamp in the form of a gold anodised aluminium predatory scorpion (£900). Many other startling designs are uncompromisingly new, such as a beautiful computer stand from Iceland's Dennis Johannesson, with casually proffered circular and rectangular planes in black and red.

That said, there are also many pieces, particularly chairs, that are hard to believe were designed in the 1990s, so at home would they seem in the upstairs gallery with their forebears. Many, too, that willfully ignore the "form must

follow function" principle set down 60-odd years ago by Scandinavia's first design generation; a CD cupboard by Sweden's Camilla Westman, say, where a perfectly straightforward rectangular set of shelves has been fronted, for no clear reason, by black doors that form an outside egg shape and sport a clear acrylic convex "yolk". Very jolky, as is a metal wine rack repeatedly perforated with outlines of reindeer that it took three more Swedes to design.

A trilogy of Danes, meanwhile, has come up with a "salon" chair to which each appears to have contributed an element unborrowed to the others (the curved plywood back, polished aluminium chassis and cow-horn, very nearly cabriolet legs signally failing to come together).

In many pockets of Britain the Scandinavian look never really went away, thanks to the influence of designers such as Ron Carter, Robert Welch and David Mellor, whose cutlery shapes cast a long shadow. G-Plan, with its period piece room dividers (not forgetting "The Most Comfortable Chair in the World") may have fallen by the wayside along with that pioneer of modular furniture, Ladderax, but Ercol, Denby Pottery, Dartington Glass and, of course, Habitat are still going strong.

Some classics, such as Arne Jacobsen's "Egg Chair" have

never gone out of style. Now the twin-headed attack of this invigoratingly presented new design, allied with Ikea's appeal to economy, could render imminent a high profile revival of all things Scandinavian.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Scandinavian Design is at the Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, London, SE1 2YD 071 403 6933 from November 12 until February 28.



Looking back to design basics: the "Piano Chair" by the Finnish architect and designer Alvar Aalto

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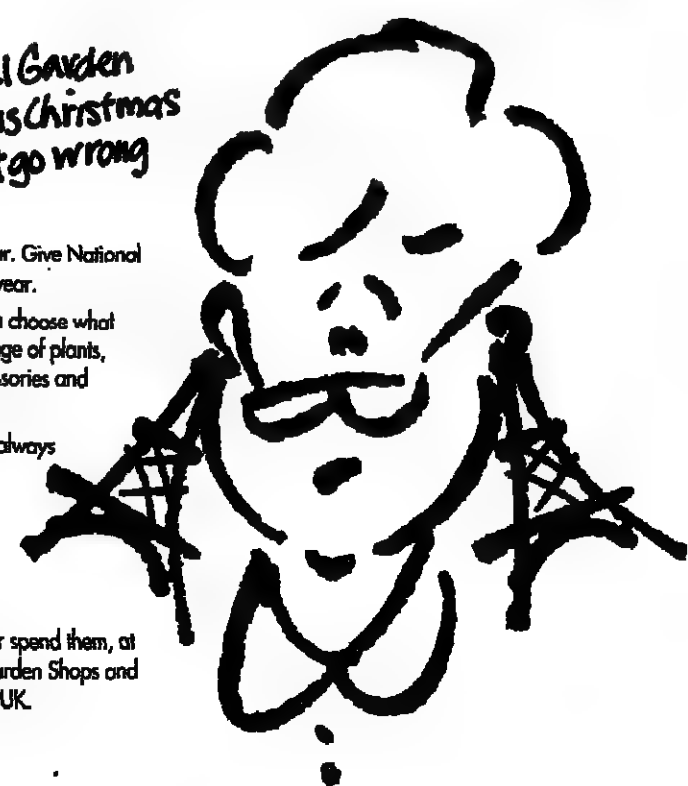
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Bryan Appleyard

■ Britain's huge weapons industry may be defended as a force for moral good

Probably the last thing you can respectably say at a dinner party is that you are an arms dealer. However above-board your activities, however kosher and Foreign Office-approved your deals, you will remain, in the minds of the other diners, a dealer in blood.

Set against that emotional prejudice, your defence, however rational, will appear cold and beside the point. Strategic considerations will seem pompous and dubious, the benefits for domestic employment shabby and depressing. It is this confrontation — between public squeamishness and the *realpolitik* of the arms trade — that, once the issue of cabinet lies has been dealt with, awaits us at the end of the strange and terrible Matrix Churchill affair.

We decided to arm Iraq. There was good strategic logic involved. The arming of Iran was a *fait accompli* and we faced the prospect of a large, radical Islamic state dominating the Gulf region. In the context of the Cold war such a prospect represented one of the last great possibilities of global conflict. Shoring up Saddam Hussein was, therefore, consistent with the old British tradition of neutralising a threat by balancing power. Besides, if we didn't, somebody else would.

But the point was that it was a decision for the British. Arming Saddam was not a moral issue for the Spanish, the Swedes or the Venezuelans. We could do it and we needed to do it. Whether we like it or not, thousands, maybe millions, of British manufacturing jobs depend on the defence industry.

We make exceedingly good weapons, among the best in the world. We do so because the experience of two world wars has convinced us that we must and because we have a demanding and effective military establishment. Sadly, we also make good weapons because Germany and Japan have been hampered in doing so.

But, with the collapse of the rest of our manufacturing base, this has produced a rather bloodthirstily unbalanced industrial economy. As prime minister, Baroness Thatcher certainly saw, though she did not acknowledge, the paradox of our position in the 1980s. There she was, championing the free market, while our most consistent industrial successes as well as at least half of our research and development investment were based entirely on government defence spending.

Such an industrial imbalance invites a bizarre and unflattering comparison with Boris Yeltsin's Russia. Just as the Russians are almost unable to stop making tanks and guns because there is little else that large numbers of the workforce are equipped or qualified to do, so we find ourselves with the prospect of a post-Cold-war peace that could eliminate even more of our industrial base.

It is a grim and depressing spectacle. Britain, once the industrial leader of the world, has become one of its foremost armourers. An imperial foreign policy becomes a weapons-based network of bribery and persuasion. And that, of course, means that we too can be bribed or persuaded. I learnt without enthusiasm the other day that China seems to be waving a £300 million arms deal under our noses, presumably in the hope that we shall play ball over Hong Kong. One talent the Chinese government possesses in abundance is the ability to spot its opponent's weaknesses.

But what is the alternative? The uneasy diners might wish us to become whingeing Swedes, forever on the sanctimonious sidelines of foreign affairs. But that would mean no defence industry. And there is a further, more elusive, point. There will always be arms and, consequently, there will always be arms dealers. One fact about the world which the comfortable Europeans often forget is that billions live under regimes that will happily kill them if it serves their purposes. If somebody, without the benefit of our present hindsight, had to arm Iraq against an overbearing Iran, perhaps it was better that it was Britain rather than China.

Such an argument requires an underlying attitude that sits uneasily in modern Britain. It requires us to believe we are a force for good and that others are a force for evil. There is nothing ethically neutral about technology; no bullet or microchip is free of moral significance. Each requires a decision from somebody. Perhaps, sadly, history has chosen us.

Today's vote on the ordination of women will cause damage whatever the result, writes Henry Chadwick

A church in two minds

There will be no envying the General Synod of the Church of England as its members proceed to vote on the proposal to ordain women. On both sides of the debate the depth of conviction is strong and, whatever decision is reached, many devoted members of the church are going to be hurt. The balance of disruption is impossible to estimate, and no vote either way can reasonably be based on forecasts about that.

There are rational considerations on either side. Arguments felt compelling by one side, however, carry so little weight for the other side that each is tempted to explain away the disagreement by invoking irrational factors. Conservative minds believing that, in a matter as central as the sacraments, the church's first duty is to the will of Christ expressed in sacred tradition through two millennia, think the advocates of priesthood for women are too secular. There are many professional women (and men) who blush for shame that the church should not do as the world does and admit women to "the highest offices", and a negative

decision by the synod will leave them angry and embarrassed before the mockery of friends. The conservative arguments can be represented as unconsciously motivated by the desire to preserve a safe male club. For many on both sides there is a sense of exhaustion with any argument, that the matter is to be decided by the solar plexus rather than the head.

The synod would be having an easier time if the good arguments were all on one side. The fear that the theological considerations might be evenly balanced, or too obscure, may lead some to vote on merely pragmatic grounds, believing that if this is bound to happen sooner or later, one might as well do it now, and at least that would get the subject off the synod's agenda for the future.

That some acute difficulties lie in the practical realm is obvious. If the legislation were to fail, sharp pain would be caused to women convinced of a

divine call both for themselves as individuals and for their sex. If the legislation were to be approved, acute problems will arise for those conscientiously unable to assent. Despite assurances to the contrary, experience elsewhere enforces the conclusion that safeguards for opponents are of no lasting value. So if a positive decision emerges, it needs to be made with the steady realisation that there will be losses of both men and women whom the church will be grieved to be losing.

We shall have the opposite position to that prevailing in the Roman Catholic Church, where no priest will be considered for episcopal ministry if he is not persuaded of the case against women priests. Bishops who in the abstract favour women priests can be heard expressing agonised sadness about the consequences for some of their finest clergy.

Not that on either side the number of resignations is likely

to be massive. To resign is to relinquish hope of influencing the discussion, and neither group will want to make life easy for opponents by taking to the lifeboats.

Much the most powerful argument in favour of having women as priests and bishops is based on considerations of justice. It is hard to contest the point that if the church has the authority to do this, and refuses to do it, an injustice is being inflicted on half the human race. Ancient society, as Cicero once remarked, was grossly unfair to women. Christianity is rooted in its ancient origins, but has also been very good at adapting to successive cultures and societies. Witness to the Rock of Ages is not necessarily achieved by immobility.

The point is far from recent in the debate. Such masters of clear thinking as St Augustine and other medieval schoolmen considered the question of justice to women in precisely these terms.

They were not impressed by the consideration that in ancient and medieval times the ordination of women was confined to heretical and schismatical groups. That apparently cut no ice. Yet, if the great church has not allowed it, there could be no good reasons for adhering to an unchanging tradition. And some among them suggested that perhaps the maleness of the catholic priesthood in both East and West could be linked to the ministerial role of representing Jesus the man in the making of his mediatorial, priestly self-offering to the Father. Natural likeness is an element among those which make a sacrament a fitting and potent symbol, and sign.

The first of these arguments raises in sharp form the problem of authority. It is no accident that among the opponents of priesthood for women are Bible Protestants who discern a liberal abandonment of

the authority of scripture. At the official level not only Roman Catholics but also Orthodox set intense value on the continuity of the community. They fear that this indispensable continuity could be rendered ambiguous by so considerable a change unless there were clear authority or consensus expressed through common council.

Among Anglicans, respect for scripture and sacred tradition remains strong. The desire for shared consent, for the avoidance of unilateral acts that have a long history of divisiveness, will survive disappointment with the Vatican's less than enthusiastic response to the dialogue with Canterbury. Although the feeling may be widespread that if one is going to be hung for a lamb it might as well be a sheep, this natural reaction is not easily sustainable if the Church of England wants to affirm, and to assure partners that it is affirming, its continuity with the tradition.

Professor Chadwick is Regius Professor Emeritus of Divinity at Cambridge and Master of Peterhouse.

The worst European of all

French small-mindedness is the real enemy of international co-operation both inside and beyond the Community

SIMON JENKINS

I confess my jaw dropped. Britain's position on Europe after all last week's bloodletting was "unacceptable", said the President of France on Monday night. "One should not be surprised," he added, "since on all such things 'we have the same sort of difficulties with Britain'." What Europe needed, said the president with heavy irony, was a British prime minister to "stick to his word". Those whose hearts have long cooled in the padded charities of Europe will see nothing odd in such words from Paris. The stereotype has France as the "good European", Britain as the isolationist. From the fleshpots of Brussels to the banqueting halls of the Elysée, Albion perfidious and alone is the *digestif* to every diplomatic repast. British visitors are expected to smile sweetly and say, of course, but you know, our history... When Britons hit back it is greeted with deep offence. How could anybody be rude about France? France is in the right. Britons are the fools of Europe.

There is rarely much purchase in interstate rudery. France is passing through a tough patch. Proust's "immense human being" is adjusting painfully to Europe's "congeries of individuals". I admire France's single-minded nationalism. The beauty of its cities and the quality of its cuisine cannot be wholly unrelated to the cultural monotheism of its politics.

But there are limits and they were surely crossed by the monumental hypocrisy of the French president on Monday. His government had last week perpetrated an international outrage. It had schemed and wriggled and obfuscated to wreck the most important international treaty not just of the decade but possibly since the last world war: the Uruguay round of Gatt. Its purpose in freeing some \$200 billion in

world trade is to fight global recession, promote prosperity and bridge the gap between rich and poor economies. France has subverted it without shame, pretending that the United States is the guilty party in the latest breakdown.

In explaining their wrecking tactics, French diplomats have the cheek to accuse others of not understanding the organic relationship between farmers and French politics. The farmers are the new musketeers. Last summer they defied Disneyland itself in defence of French culture, the artichoke and oil-seed rape. Others understand all too well. For two decades, French negotiators within the Community have fought against farm reform, bleeding the EC budget and impeding steps towards more open markets. They do so because, ever since the war, French politicians have been too weak to rationalise and shrink their inefficient farm industry, indeed have used the EC to prop it up. And they chide John Major for conceding a delay to his backbench sceptics over Maastricht.

What expensive concessions did M Mitterrand make to rescue his own Maastricht vote last September? He pointed out on Monday that Mr Major signed a treaty and should now "keep his word". But was M Mitterrand keeping his word when, out of political self-interest, he put Maastricht to a referendum? What if he had lost and European union had foundered, merely through the unpopularity of the French government? More than a word would have been broken.

The behaviour of Jacques Delors is no less outrageous as he now blatantly uses his job as European president to run for the leadership of France. Even the American agriculture secretary, Ed Madigan, no stranger to the rough-house of lobby politics, professed himself appalled at M Delors's treatment of his negotiator, Ray McSharry, during the trade negotiations in Chicago last week. Mr



McSharry, himself no shrinking violet, stormed off home to Ireland in disgust.

M Delors duly played the wounded husband whose wife has just hurled the Sévres at him for unreasonable behaviour: a smile and a shrug of the shoulders. Yet both EC and American sources are unequivocal. M Delors sabotaged an EC commitment to push a deal with

America lest it endanger his personal prospects in France. I believe it is little short of corrupt for senior Brussels officials to be allowed to run for office subsequently in their home countries. At Monday's meeting of foreign ministers, an exhausted Douglas Hurd had to explain Britain's Maastricht delay — it was better surely than no ratification at all — and resist French

demands for an immediate and ruinous retaliatory trade war against America. France was unsuccessful, so far. France's Monday response was the diplomacy of anarchy. It was the response of a politics inherently hostile to the discipline of international co-operation. M Mitterrand appeases his farm lobby by saying, "We cannot be asked to give up what is the heart of

France". But the heart of France, in 1992?

In its refusal to take part in Nato, its tardy decolonisation, its opportunism in arms sales, its aversion to EC competition policy, its opposition to farm reform, France ranks among the world's most reactionary states. France does not ask what it can do for Europe, only what Europe can do for France, basis of Margaret Thatcher's secret admiration. The imperialism of the Delors presidency was one manifestation of this, the expensive rituals, the packing of his staff with French polytechnicians, the insistence on French as the working language. These all suggested a nation that has lost self-confidence and had hoped beyond hope that it could find a new one as leader of Europe. So to misunderstand the Germans was an error indeed.

Unless French hypocrisy is declared as such, then the Europe of which it claims ideological leadership will slide into a lethal isolationism. Gatt is an awful warning. Paris, with M Mitterrand as its Olympian, can retreat into *petite France*, marginalised from the trade upheavals sweeping the globe, languishing behind fiercely defended tariff walls, a mental offshore island in the centre of a continent, a theme park of Gallic glory. Its parasitical, anti-American, even anti-British prejudices of the Paris mandarin. But Europe will be the poorer for it. Yesterday French officials threatened that delay in ratifying Maastricht — surely one of the world's least urgent treaties — would jeopardise a wider Europe, as if a wider Europe was some magnanimous concession made by France to the rest of the world.

Abstract nouns are no substitute for political action and French European policy is strictly composed of abstract nouns. From Washington to Brussels, from Geneva to London, officials might adapt M Mitterrand's own words, "on all the big agreements in recent years, we have had the same sort of difficulties with France". French small-mindedness is the true enemy of international co-operation both inside and beyond Europe. But then a French philosopher will doubtless explain that irony is the glory of Gallic thought. If so, we must remember it when next M Mitterrand delivers one of his pompous lectures.

Earth shaker

IT IS not John Major's week for ratifying treaties of international importance. Having come under fire from the French for his delay on Maastricht, he is incurring the wrath of his more environmentally minded neighbours by dragging his feet on ratification of the main achievement of the Earth Summit.

The Convention on Climate Change was agreed by 150 countries in June and Britain was a leading player in securing the eleven-hour signature of the United States. Indeed, so keen was Britain on the convention that the prime minister wrote to G7 and EC leaders to urge speedy ratification.

So why has Britain suddenly gone cold? The answer, in one word, is money. To implement the agreement, Britain would have to spend at least £100 million promoting energy conservation measures.

With the chancellor expected to announce belt tightening on a mammoth scale in tomorrow's Autumn Statement, commitments at Rio are likely to be an early casualty.

To add to the government's embarrassment, the US, the most reluctant signatory, has already ratified. Even Denmark is moving faster than Britain. "We will ratify

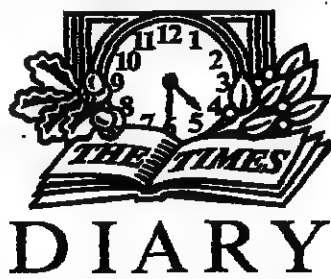
very soon," said a spokeswoman for the Danish ministry of foreign affairs. The DoE is bravely claiming British ratification will take place by the end of 1993, but the Treasury insists that the agreement be ratified by Britain only when all other countries have done so.

"That means that Britain will not ratify the convention until countries like Lesotho have done so," says one environmental campaigner. "It is outrageous." David Bellamy is equally appalled. "What are we going to wish on next? John Major was badly advised to sign up to these treaties. It would have been braver to have refused. We have the companies which are at the forefront of technology to reduce greenhouse gases. The government should invest in them, create worthwhile jobs and help the environment."

But Major has not totally given up. "We will turn the words of Rio into the reality of a better environment," he said last month. But not if the Treasury has its way, it seems.

Red alert

KEN LIVINGSTONE, the left's unequivocal voice of reason, has



upset his colleagues in Brussels to such an extent that they have considered taking legal action in an attempt to make him eat — or at least withdraw — his words.

During Labour's Blackpool conference, Livingstone launched a particularly scathing attack on the MEPs through his column in *The Sun*, castigating them over their part in the Maastricht affair. Never noted for his understatement, he compared their actions to those of Dr Goebbels.

So incensed was his own party abroad that Glyn Ford, leader of the Labour group in Brussels, sought legal advice in an attempt to extract an apology for the article.

"The funny thing is," confides the member for Brent East, "that the lawyer told the MEPs the piece was justified. As a result, the Labour group shelled out a substantial sum

on legal fees — for nothing." Ford is unrepentant. "We did seek legal advice, but because we were not clearly identified in the article we were told it would be extremely difficult to insist on an apology."

King Cole

DOT COTTON, the chain-smoking harrier from *EastEnders*, has joined Baroness Thatcher to pay tribute to John Cole, the BBC's recently retired political editor. The unlikely allies came together in a 15-minute video prepared by Lance Price, a fellow BBC political correspondent.

Cotton, alias June Brown, declares that while the country could just about manage without John Major, the departure of Cole is a calamity. Lady Thatcher predicts that Cole will miss his old lifestyle. "He will just have to adapt," she says firmly. "Let me tell you. You do it and you begin to love the new life." Neil Kinnock, clearly a man thinking about future employment, says somewhat tongue in cheek: "People are talking about him becoming president of the European Commission. I am prepared to endorse it myself." But Cole is unlikely to be short of job offers. Dot Cotton, for one, is lobbying to get him onto the cast of *EastEnders* before he is signed up by *Eldorado*.



One sad consequence of the American election result is the demise of *Quayle Quarterly*, a magazine devoted to blunders made by the outgoing vice-president. The magazine had a field day with Quayle's spelling of potato. As it accompanies Quayle into political obscurity the magazine's last headline will be "Democracy without Dan". The magazine's creators will be watching Al Gore, right, with interest.

Hot dog

CHRIS PATTEN is beginning to believe that the local geomancers are right. His *feng shui* is not looking too hot. But if the omens are bad for Patten, they are extremely bleak for Soda, his Norfolk terrier. Soda disappeared on Sunday while out for a walk in the streets of Hong



Kong with the governor's wife, Lavender. Several searches have failed to find the plump six-month-old pet, one of a pair at Government House — the other is somewhat inevitably called Whisky. So upset is Patten that he has offered a reward of HK\$1,000, roughly £85. But few are holding out much

hope. Hong Kong is not a good place to go missing if you have four legs and a tail. The unspoken fear is that Soda ends up as "fragrant meat", the euphemism for cooked canine.



Newham Borough Council is the place to be if you are aged between five and eleven. While schoolchildren in the rest of the country toiled at their mental arithmetic, children in Newham, east London, had yesterday off to celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. Newham council, which has a 50 per cent ethnic population, has declared the day an annual holiday along with October 26, Diwali, and March 25, Eid-ul-Fitr.



ARMS AND THE MINISTERS

A judicial enquiry may not save the government's face

Industrialists cannot be expected to make policy on arms sales. Ministers must set policy, defend it in Parliament — and not betray the public trust by operating another policy in secret. That should be the essential rubric for the independent judicial enquiry which was announced yesterday into the Matrix-Churchill case.

Documents relating to the collapsed Matrix-Churchill prosecution disprove by themselves the Department of Trade and Industry's pretence, proffered in the teeth of evidence gathered in Iraq since 1990, that it had followed the "spirit" of Britain's embargo on lethal exports to Iran and Iraq, laid down in 1985. The case against ministers is that they deceived Parliament, privately exhorted industrialists to bend the law, and then invoked official secrecy to conceal the deception. This, if proved, damages public trust in government at home, and abroad, Britain's influence in the strategically vital task of effective arms controls.

Yesterday the Attorney General suggested as the main enquiry focus for Lord Justice Scott the operation of export licensing rules. But there are likely to be few surprises there. Sixteen months ago the Commons trade and industry committee published a list of exports to Iraq classified by the DTI as "non-military". The list included air defence simulators, dual-use chemicals and gun sound-rangers. Matrix was only one of dozens of British companies selling Iraq arms-related technology. The issue is not the operation of the policy, nor even whether it was wise, but whether the policy as stated was the real policy in force.

The context of this affair is clear enough. Countries with large defence industries like to encourage weapons and weapons-related exports to offset the costs of domestic

purchases. The main buyers tend to be unsavory governments. Jobs at home tend to weigh heavier in the scales than foreign deaths, and this commercial special pleading may well have influenced ministers. Iraq's principal armaments were not British, but Soviet and French. These other foreign suppliers, however, made no pretence about the trade. There is compelling evidence that the British government, by contrast, preached virtue in public while conniving with exporters to outwit its own embargo.

The government's determination not to admit this duplicity exposed Paul Henderson and his colleagues to possible imprisonment for breaking rules they believed not to be in force. In the Matrix Churchill case, there may have been important intelligence considerations. Mr Henderson's intelligence role is highly relevant to the enquiry. But why then were HM Customs and Excise allowed to proceed with a prosecution, if national security interests were at stake? Was it just incompetence?

Put at its most cynical, ministers disobeyed the first law in intelligence: do not get caught. Four ministers, three of them in the Cabinet, then sought in the "public interest" to deny clearly embarrassing documents to the defence, and instructed counsel to argue that the papers would not help the defendants. They must have known that their embarrassment would be compounded if the judge, Mr Justice Smedley, decided otherwise. Ever since Britain's contribution to Iraq's military machine became public knowledge, British ministers have doggedly obeyed the first law of politics: do not defend the indefensible. Governments generally hope that judicial enquiries will decrease the pressures on them; this one may only postpone the reckoning.

PRESIDENTIAL TALENT

Bill Clinton should hire Republicans as well as Democrats

"A ministry of all the talents" is not the happiest memory in the history of British politics. It may have provided the dying fall to Charles James Fox's career but otherwise the administration that Lord Grenville formed in 1806 did not achieve very much. But then in Britain co-operation between leading figures in all the parties tends to work only under the threat of immediate national danger. Churchill proved that in 1940 and, in his own more ambitious way, Lloyd George did the same in 1916.

America, however, is another country. Free from having the Commons as a cockpit for parliamentary combat, it has always been able to afford to take greater liberties with party loyalties. If President-elect Clinton is serious about bringing "the best and the brightest" into his new administration, then it is an initiative that can only be welcomed. There is a healthy American political tradition of new presidents reaching across normal partisan barriers to make appointments. By inviting prominent Republicans to serve under him, he would only be emulating the example of his hero, President Kennedy, who had no compunction at all about recruiting Douglas Dillon — a Wall Street Republican — to serve as his secretary of the treasury.

The new president probably has too many of his own ideas of what he wants to do on the economic front to make such a bipartisan appointment possible on this occasion. Both at the treasury and at the office of the budget he is liable to want people who identify instinctively with the plans he outlined on the campaign trail — imprecise and ill-thought-out though they often seemed to be. There are other jobs, however,

where he can display a greater degree of ecumenicism. Mr Warren Christopher once seemed to have a claim to the State Department — he served there as deputy secretary of state under President Carter and has been a major campaign supporter for the new president — but he is now apparently out of contention. Since Mr Clinton has no experience in the field of foreign policy, the outside world would certainly be reassured, not to say relieved, to see a steady hand at the tiller.

If Mr James Baker is excluded by his assent (reluctant though it was) to serve as President Bush's last-minute campaign manager, the former secretary of state could at least be charged with bringing his preliminary work on the Middle East peace conference to fruition. That would certainly make greater sense than expecting President Carter somehow to perform the miracle of reviving the spirit of Camp David — though even that would be preferable to dispatching the unfortunate ex-president as a one-man peace missionary to Northern Ireland.

If he is wise, Mr Clinton will recognise that there are some virtues in continuity. One test of his attitude here will be his readiness to leave his country's highly respected and professional ambassador in London, Raymond Seitz, *en poste*. But he could achieve the same objective across a broader front simply by making it clear — by his imminent actions as much as his words — that he will welcome into his new administration people of all parties and of none. As "a new kind of Democrat", Mr Clinton has a unique opportunity to turn his back on the politics of "pork barrel" and jobs-for-the-boys.

ART SANS FRONTIERES

EC proposals on art sales would have stopped the Renaissance

Proposed directives restricting the movement of art across frontiers of the European Community were watered down yesterday, with the British chairman of the meeting of trade ministers being blamed for nationalism. This is good news for art and Europe. The proposals were mistaken, illiberal, a paper exercise for form-filling bureaucrats, and an invitation to smugglers. They would not have achieved what they intended. And they misunderstood the meaning of art.

The rules would have allowed national governments to define their national heritage as widely as they liked to prevent its export. Countries such as Greece, Italy and Spain, which are rich in art though not in trade balances, fear that their national treasures will flood northwards in January to the richer markets. They want to list as national treasures millions of pictures, sculptures, drawings and other moveable works of art (in the widest sense) from poshers to bones, and from furniture to stamp collections, to prevent their export.

Such regulations would not work. It is impossible to erect a paper curtain of export licences around a country to prevent the passage of so many small objects. Smugglers, dealers and owners will find a way through. It is oppressive for a state to prevent owners from finding the best price for their property. And it is a mistake to treat so much art and heritage as national rather than personal possessions.

Most art is personal, international, foot-loose and unfettered by frontiers. Roman culture and art were pillaged from Greece. England's great national collections were built by aristocrats and aesthetes on their

grand tour, with an eye for culture, and (in the view of locals and their families at the time) more money than sense. Today America and Japan have come into the art market; but that is the way the art market always has worked.

An artist has always been someone who creates things, partly for pleasure or obsession, but also to make a living. National frontiers come into the artist's calculations less than those of other men. There are some "national treasures" so ingrained in a country's history that they should not be allowed to emigrate. Everyone's list will differ, but for England it might include the Wilton diptych (artist unknown, but probably French), the portrait of Henry VIII and his family in the Queen's collection, painted by Hans Holbein, the Rubens ceiling of the Banqueting Hall, and the Rokeby Venus, painted in Italy by the Spaniard Velázquez. The Winged Victory of Samothrace has become naturalised French; and St Mark's in Venice would not be itself without its horses from Byzantium, and its enigmatic pussy-cat lion from farther east.

Such "national treasures" can be kept within frontiers by regulation. In Britain the Waverley system lays down a pause after the market has fixed the value of a work, so that a British gallery or museum can try to match the price. So the nation gets a chance to consider the piece's "heritage" value, and to decide how badly it wants to keep the work. These national treasures will be by definition few. Most art is for the highest bidder. Under the proposed EC regulations against export of works of art, the Renaissance would never have happened.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Today's vote on the ordination of women: history, priorities and conscience

From the Chaplain of
Keeble College, Oxford

Sir, The tension that is palpably evident as the General Synod vote on the ordination of women to the priesthood draws near is an indication of how deeply the issue is felt on both sides. While Coleridge was right in saying that deep thinking is not attainable without deep feeling, too much emotion can cloud judgment.

This is indeed a disputed question, involving theological, ecclesiological, moral and sociological concerns, differently evaluated by different sides. What is regrettable is the simplistic labelling of "for" and "against", with the consequence that those who believe the legislation to be either wrong or lacking sufficient justification are described not simply as opponents but as "negative".

Those who will vote against the measure before Synod do so only because of their positive Christian concern for:

1. The identity and well-being of the Church of England, marked in part by its continuous claim to share the historic, three-fold ministry with Catholics and Orthodox.
2. The clear grounding of all decisions affecting faith and order in the teaching of Scripture and primitive tradition — the historic position of the Church of England.
3. A reverence for the mystery of priesthood.
4. The avoidance of division in the Church of England by bringing into being a ministry that is not commonly accepted.
5. Avoiding new barriers to the reconciliation of the Churches.

These concerns can and should be maintained together with the affirmation of the ministry of women in the Church in every way that does not call into question the order, catholic continuity and identity of the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY ROWELL,
Keeble College, Oxford.
November 9.

From Canon Michael Seward

Sir, I am going to the Synod on Wednesday to vote "yes" to the ordination of women. In the present circumstances, a narrow "yes" majority will (even if only just) confirm the clear mandate given throughout the land by Anglican church people.

To vote "no" will, it seems, produce a situation in which one or two lay members will have held the whole Church of England to ransom. That must be the worst of all scenarios. Who would want that on his, or her, conscience?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SEWARD
(Canon Treasurer,
St Paul's Cathedral),
6 Amen Court, EC4.
November 9.

From the Chairman of the Prayer
Book Society

Sir, The noble baronesses (letter, November 9) confuse ministry with priesthood. They also speak of being denied the help they think women priests could provide. If they are in need of social workers (which is what

"help" would seem to imply) then women could provide such a service as women deacons without the necessity of becoming priests.

The peeresses also question the Church's priorities. Surely the prime duty of the Church is to uphold the historic creeds and not to bend them to promote feminist career opportunities.

It is indisputable that under the 1662 Ordinal a priest must be male. The Alternative Service Book Ordinal (p338) fudges the issue but does not change the pre-existing law. It is for this reason that draft Canon C4B is being tabled on Wednesday so that, if passed, the Book of Common Prayer and the 1662 Ordinal can be "re-nested". The Synod, Sir, is playing with fire.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. A. KILMISTER,
Chairman,
The Prayer Book Society,
St James Garlickhythe,
Garlick Hill, EC4.
November 9.

From Mr J. S. Seeley

Sir, Baroness David and others state that the world "urgently needs the mission of the Church, but that mission is limited and handicapped by the exclusion of women from the ministry".

Since the Anglican Church represents such a very small proportion of the Christian Church world wide, it is difficult to see how the ordination of women on such a narrow front could have any beneficial effect on the widespread confusion and distress in the world, to which your correspondents refer.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. SEELEY,
Crippetts, 4 Pointers Hill,
Weymouth,
Dorset, Dorset,
November 9.

From Mrs Elizabeth Percival

Sir, A vote in favour of women priests would make inescapable the breaking of the bonds with the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. The Church of England would no longer be part of the "one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church", in which clergy and laity alike presently proclaim their belief.

Members of the Synod cannot morally or logically argue that they can, on the one hand, keep their promise to uphold the doctrine of the Church of England and on the other hand deliberately destroy that same doctrine.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH PERCIVAL,
Clagan,
17 Southwell Park Road,
Canterbury, Surrey,
November 9.

From Dr Sheridan Gilley

Sir, The Reverend Donald Reeves's letter (November 9), advancing the "traditionally pragmatic" and non-theological religion of the English as a reason for ordaining women, very ably sums up the intellectual and spiritual powerlessness of the Church of England in any generation to resist the wisdom of this passing world.

This partly explains why so many of the Church's greatest saints and

prophets either, like Wesley, pass their lives in the disgrace of internal exile within her or are compelled to leave her, like Newman.

Yours faithfully,
SHERIDAN GILLEY,
University of Durham,
Department of Theology,
Abbey House,
Palace Green, Durham.

From Prebendary Michael Moreton

Sir, The interpretation by Professor Tom Torrance of evidence for the presence of women in the order of priesthood is open to question (report, November 7).

Thus, it remains uncertain whether Junia/Junian (Romans xvi, 7) and Nympha/Nymphan (Colossians iv, 15) are to be understood as masculine or feminine, as any critical edition of the Greek New Testament will show. Again, the mural in the catacomb of St Priscilla in Rome, depicting her sitting at table with her husband and other men, is to be found in a funeral chamber, and not in a church; so that it may well represent not the eucharist (as Professor Torrance suggests), but a *refrigerium*, a meal for the dead.

As for the ninth-century mosaic in the church of St Prassede, also in Rome, in which Theodora, the mother of Pope Paschal I, is entitled *episcopa*, it should not be assumed that *episcopa* means a woman bishop, for in that case we should need to know of what she was the bishop. It is more likely that *episcopa* means the wife, or as here the mother of a bishop, just as *presbyterissa* means the wife of a presbyter and *diaconissa* the wife of a deacon.

There is not much straw here where Professor Torrance can make his bricks.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MORETON,
3 Glenholme Road,
Duryard,
Exeter, Devon,
November 7.

From Mr David Goodman

Sir, Some opponents of the ordination of women as priests seem to think that it would hinder ecumenical progress. The Roman Catholic Church may be opposed to the idea at present, but Galileo has established that U-turns are possible, even in the Vatican.

Ecumenical progress with many other Churches, such as the Methodist, would be facilitated by the ordination of women. In many existing local ecumenical projects the Anglican lady deacons are in an anomalous position with respect to the Free Church lady ministers who are authorised to celebrate the Eucharist.

This is an actual problem today. Rome may take another 350 years to recognise even the existing Anglican priesthood.

Yours etc.,

D. R. GOODMAN,
Ledbrook House,
Oswaldkirk, York,
November 5.

From the Archbishop of Sydney

Sir, As a member of the Anglican Church of Australia which is derived from the Church of England and whose constitution "retains and approves the doctrine and principles of

the Church of England", I take the liberty of pointing out that, should the Church of England admit women to the order of priests, it will place itself out of communion (or into "impaired" communion) with dioceses such as my own which adhere to the present law of the Church of England in regard to apostolic and catholic order.

I am, yours faithfully,
DONALD ROBINSON,
Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney,
St Andrews House,
Sydney Square, NSW 2000,
Australia.
November 2.

From Professor M. G. Haines

Sir, Under the proposed legislation before Synod all future bishops will be chosen as the best not from the whole pool of ordained priests but from the restricted category of those who accept the ordination of women. This fact alone will block the proper elevation of many suitable priests to the episcopate, reducing them to a second class status; indeed, it amounts to establishing a 40th Article of Faith for those aspiring to be bishops.

But there is a much worse and essentially flawed consequence. Over a period of time the House of Bishops, which has separate voting powers, will by the legislation almost certainly remain in favour of the ordination of women in perpetuity. Such irreversibility runs counter to the arguments of the protagonists of women priests, that the Church must be able to make changes in the light of social change.

Instead, after this legislation is passed, no change (for instance back to the status quo) will be possible, even if a large majority of the Church wishes it. We could think of an equivalent and unacceptable analogy of a parliament having an upper house with power of veto and permanently packed by law with members of only one political persuasion.

Therefore I conclude that whether members of the Synod are for or against the ordination of women, they must in all conscience vote against this flawed legislation. However, a simple amendment removing the separate voting power of the House of Bishops would remedy this particular flaw.

Yours sincerely,
M. G. HAINES,
15 Mount Avenue, W5,
November 5.

From Mr H. L. M. Walker

Sir, In the intercessions at our family Communion service yesterday the (lay) leader of our prayers finished his references to the decision of Synod on Wednesday with the words "let Thy will be done".

This encapsulated for me my reluctance to support the ordination of women to the priesthood. If those against are defeated they will consider it to be the will of God; if the reverse happens, those in favour have made it clear that they intend to continue the struggle.

What is our religion about if we only accept a decision as "God's will" if it goes in our favour?

Yours faithfully,
H. L. M. WALKER,
Forge Cottage, Little Walden,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
November 9.

Buyer's premium

From Mr Andrew James

Sir, There has been much huffing about the new buyer's premium to be charged by Sotheby's, effectively creating a margin of about 30 per cent between buyer and seller.

Most distributors of non-commodity goods would surely be delighted to give so small a discount to a retailer who is also prepared to promote their goods.

Lord Derwent (letter, November 7) suggests that owners sell to dealers to receive 100 per cent of the agreed price rather than 70 per cent of what the end-buyer is prepared to pay. This is rather disingenuous as they themselves are not the end-buyer, and their final customer is probably having to bear a mark-up of at least 30 per cent.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW JAMES,
79 Black Lion Lane, W6.

Rephrasing required

From Mr Steve Williams

Sir, Mr Anthony Grant (letter, November 9) is looking for more appropriate phrases to express stability. How about "as safe as the Governor of the Bank of England"?

Yours sincerely,
STEVE WILLIAMS,
3 Forest Road, Dordridge,
Solihull, West Midlands.

From Mrs Narguesse Stevens

Sir, How about "safe as Norman Lamont's job"?

Yours faithfully,
NARGUESSE STEVENS,
1 Chalklands,
Saffron Walden, Essex.

From Herr Klaus Koentopp

Sir, May I suggest "safe as the Bundesbank"?

Yours safely,
KLAUS KOENTOPP,
256 Wendover Road,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

English Heritage plans

From Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Sir, Your correspondents (November 9) have drawn attention to English Heritage's plans for its properties in care but there has been no discussion of its plans for historic towns and areas, and for London.

Britain has a good record of protecting individual buildings of national importance, but compares far less well with France, Italy or The Netherlands in safeguarding historic towns as a whole. It is therefore a cause for anxiety that English Heritage should withdraw from partnerships with local authorities for such towns. These have been developed during the 20 years since conservation grants were first introduced by a Conservative government.

The new strategy would place in jeopardy a number, so far unspecified, of joint town and conservation schemes. Although a few of the wealthier local authorities which have an adequate conservation staff can manage on their own, it is unrealistic to suppose that most of the others could continue full-scale programmes

Coma decision

From Mr Keith A. Davies

Sir, To deny food and fluids to a patient like Tony Bland, the young man severely brain damaged as a result of the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989, will not "allow him to die" (report, November 4).

Rather, it will condemn him to a slow, lingering death due to starvation and dehydration. That would not be death with dignity. It would be brutal death by design and neglect.

It is extremely sad that those responsible for Mr Bland's care and treatment believe that in view of the apparently extremely poor prognosis it may be appropriate to terminate what they call "life support systems".

If that means they wish to kill Mr Bland by withholding food and fluids (i.e., by starvation and dehydration) then I cannot accept that their

proposals are medically, ethically, or legally sound.

Mr Bland has been in a persistent vegetative state for the past three-and-a-half years, and he is being fed through a nasogastric tube. However, it is incorrect to describe the withholding of food and fluids by nasogastric tube as the termination of "life support systems" since that gives the false impression that Mr Bland is being kept artificially alive by machine.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER JENKINS (Chairman,
National Trust Council, 1986-90),
2 Kensington Park Gardens, W11.

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Yours faithfully,
K. A. DAVIES
(Co-ordinator, Life campaigns),
Life House, Newbold Terrace,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The President of the Russian Federation and Madame Yelina visited The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of York was also present.

The following were invited: His Excellency the Ambassador of the Russian Federation and Madame Yelina, Pankina, Sir Brian and Lady Fall and Sir David and Lady Gilmore.

A Guard of Honour found by the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards was mounted in the Quadrangle.

The Major General Commanding Household Division and the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting were present.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, visited the North of the Festival of Scandinavian Arts and attended a Gala Concert at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were received by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor (Sir Brian Jenkins) and the Chairman of the Barbican Centre Committee (Mr Geoffrey Lawson).

The Queen of Denmark and The Prince of Denmark, The King and Queen of Sweden, The King and Queen of Norway, The President of the Republic of Iceland and The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Kolomoj were present.

The Countess of Airlie, Sir Kenneth Scott, Mr John Hadden and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the arrival of The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Kolomoj.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Royal Air Force Northolt this afternoon upon the arrival of The King and Queen of Sweden, and welcomed Her Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

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CLARENCE HOUSE
November 10: Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher MacKenzie-Besvor today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Elliot also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Ruth, Lady Erny, has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Mrs Michael Wigley and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Turning Point, then attended a Reception at Wragge and Company, 55 Colmore Row, Birmingham, and subsequently attended a Luncheon at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

Her Royal Highness finally opened the Amanda Bevan Rehabilitation Centre, Hurst Road, Longford, Coventry.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, was present this evening at a performance of "Mayerling" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as part of the Harolyn Westminter Week.

The Hon Mrs Mills was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 10: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Gloucestershire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Henry Elwes).

In the morning His Royal Highness opened the Tenth Anniversary Meeting of the Gloucestershire Enterprise Agency, the Conference Centre, Nuclear Electric PLC, Barnwood, Gloucester.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, opened St John House, the new County and Area Headquarters of St John Ambulance, St George's Place, Cheltenham.

Afterwards His Royal Highness opened the Cheltenham Recreation Centre, Tommy Taylor Lane, Cheltenham.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester today opened the redeveloped Longton Cottage Hospital, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Sir Arthur Bryan).

Later Her Royal Highness opened the Child Development Centre at City General Hospital, Hilton Road, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
November 10: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a performance of "The Merry Widow Cabaret" by Pavilion Opera, in aid of the Living Image Appeal for disabled children, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London W1.

Mrs Peter Wilmore-Silwell was in attendance.

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HEADQUARTERS OF ST JOHN AMBULANCE
November 10: The Duke of Kent this evening arrived at Heathrow Airport, London from Munich, Germany.

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a Gala Concert and Dinner in aid of The Royal School of Church Music at The Guildhall, London.

Mrs Peter Wilmore-Silwell was in attendance.

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The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Anderson, of La Goulde, France, and Sarah, elder daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Pilkington, of Kings Walden Bury, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. Ashley Miller and Miss M.R. James
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Ashley Miller, of Beccles, Suffolk, and Katie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael James, of Barnes, London.

Mr C.E. Barber and Miss C.E. White
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Barber, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr Peter White, of Mairville, and of Mrs Margaret White, of Chelsea, London.

Mr N.T. Parry de Winton and Miss S.E. Elwes
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The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Ian Wigram, of London, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cary Youngblood, of Kilmessy, Hampshire.

Mr D. Wolfers and Miss J.A. Taber
The marriage took place quietly in London yesterday between David Wolfers and Jacqueline Taber.

Mr D.P.L. McCallan and Miss H.K. Wybrew
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs M.C. McCallan, of South Winton, Hampshire, and Mrs D. Smith, of Otham, Hampshire, and Helen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.B. Wybrew, of Langthorne, Surrey.

Mr J.B. Anderson and Miss S.E. Pilkington
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Anderson, of La Goulde, France, and Sarah, elder daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Pilkington,

PETER SAVIGEAR

هكذا من الأصل



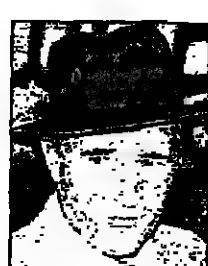
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News on Channel Three: the battle starts



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Who wins and who loses in the recession



SPORT 36-40

Football: Malcolm Allison returns to Bristol Rovers

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BUSINESS TODAY

METERING

Anglian Water became the first of the former authorities to reveal preparations for widespread metering of households
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PROFITING

Tom Peters, international management expert, argues that small is beautiful
Page 25

CASHING IN

De La Rue, the company that prints money, enjoyed a boost to profits from printing £160 million of shares
Page 24

BLOWN OUT

Had it not been for Hurricane Andrew, General Accident would have made a nine-month profit
Page 24

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5160 (-0.0138)
German mark 2.4214 (-0.0041)
Exchange Index 77.9 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2016.5 (+20.1)
FT-SE 100 2714.6 (+19.2)
New York Dow Jones 3243.03 (+2.16)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 16437.11 (+20.06)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 8%
3-month interbank 7.5%
3-month eligible bills 6.1%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 5%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.07-3.08%
30-year bonds 94.25-94.50

CURRENCIES

London: New York £/\$ 1.5160
DM/\$ 1.5160
DM/£ 1.5160
Sfr/\$ 1.5160
Sfr/£ 1.5160
Yen/\$ 1.5160
Yen/£ 1.5160
SDR: £0.806480
ECU: £0.806480
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$330.20 PM \$330.35
Close \$329.50-330.00
1216.75-217.75
New York: COMEX \$ 329.75-330.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Nov) \$19.55/bbl (\$19.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes monthly trading price

Falling pound raises fears over inflation

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE sharp devaluation of the pound since it was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism on Black Wednesday produced a surge in the price of raw materials and fuel that has revived City concern about inflation.

Government figures on input prices yesterday combined with firm signals from the Bank of England to dampen hopes of a two-point cut in base rates to accompany the Chancellor's Autumn Statement tomorrow. Dealers were still looking for a one-point cut this week, with further easing held until year-end.

In early trading, the pound fell to \$1.5080, its lowest for five years. Its trade-weighted index dropped to 77.7, matching the record low of November 2. By the official close it recovered a little to 77.9, down 0.3 on the previous close and

■ The Chancellor's room for manoeuvre in cutting interest rates may have been restricted by fears of a resurgence in inflation caused by sterling's devaluation

equaling the record low for the finish. While ending only slightly softer against the mark, at DM2.4214, sterling was still over a cent and a quarter down at \$1.5160.

Producer price data showed a provisional 2.5 per cent jump in manufacturers' input prices in October, after an upward revised 1 per cent increase in September. The previous four months had all shown falling prices. The annual rate of increase leapt to 2 per cent in October from zero.

Almost half the country's raw materials and fuel is imported, with most goods priced in dollars, against

which sterling has dropped 17.2 per cent since September 16. Weaker sterling is expected to continue to feed through into higher fuel and raw materials prices. Manufacturers appear unable to pass on higher costs by raising factory gate prices, due to weak demand, though this could change if the government stimulated the economy.

Output prices edged up by only 0.1 per cent in October, the same rise as in September. This slowed the annual rate to 3.3 per cent from 3.4 per cent, the lowest since February 1968. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, factory gate prices showed no change in October, while the annual increase slowed from 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said manufacturers would bear the costs by reducing margins or shedding labour, or pass them on in higher inflation. He predicted retail price inflation next year of 4.5 per cent, from 3.5 per cent this year. The government's new target range for underlying inflation is 1 to 4 per cent. Friday's retail data are expected to show an underlying figure of 3.9 per cent for October.

□ The economic policy committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development agreed that the industrial world is on course for a gradual economic pickup in the next two years, with inflation falling further. □ The gold price plunged yesterday after massive selling by American investment funds and Middle East speculators. It tumbled through several support levels to an afternoon fix of \$330.50 an ounce.

SFO seeks plea-bargains to cut prosecution costs

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Serious Fraud Office's immediate task is to reduce the length and the cost of fraud prosecutions, through the introduction of plea bargaining and greater disclosure before a trial commences, according to George Staple, the SFO's director.

Mr Staple, who was appointed six months ago, said that while the American Securities and Exchange Commission may have its virtues, it still could not prevent a number of spectacular frauds during the last decade. Consequently, in the Shimizu Lecture at the London School of Economics last night, Mr Staple chose to concentrate on improving the system already in use.

The single most effective means of shortening the trial

process is still a plea of guilty. He said that many guilty defendants plead not guilty and simply take their chance on acquittal. "It is therefore possible to introduce a system which will encourage guilty defendants to plead, while at the same time protecting them from improper pressure to do so", he added.

If there is a plea of guilty, the sentence can be a lesser prison sentence, then, expected, or even a conditional discharge. Conditions could include hefty fines, full co-operation of the defendant, restitution to victims, contribution to cost of the investigation and regulatory penalties. He also says that the defence should be obliged to present more of its case before the trial commences.

Cabra shares suspended

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Cabra Estates, the property company that owns the Chelsea and Fulham football grounds, were suspended yesterday after its two principal bankers unexpectedly demanded immediate repayment of their loans.

The Royal Bank of Scotland and Midland Bank made the demand on Monday, just two days after directors had told shareholders at an extraordinary meeting that negotiations to sell the football grounds were continuing.

Cabra's chances of repaying the loans and escaping receivership look remote. Last month, it reported pre-tax losses of more than £22 million in the year to end-March and admitted that falling property values had wiped out net assets. The last available net debt figure of £52 million is 20 months out of date. Cabra



Bates confident

shares were suspended at 2p "pending clarification of the company's financial position".

Ken Bates, Chelsea chairman, was confident the banks' move would not affect his efforts to secure Chelsea's future at Stamford Bridge. Mr Bates is believed to be in talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland,

which holds Stamford Bridge as security on a loan to Cabra and SB Property, the offshoot that owns the football grounds. Nonetheless, the collapse of Cabra could prove expensive for him. In March, Vanbrugh, a Virgin Islands company controlled by Mr Bates, paid an estimated £3 million for 27 per cent of Cabra. It now owns 29.6 per cent.

Last month, Vanbrugh transferred its Cabra stake to Chelsea Village, a UK registered company 60 per cent owned by Mayflower Securities, also of the Virgin Islands, and 40 per cent by RHK Nominees of Hong Kong.

Gordon Young, Cabra chairman, said he was dismayed by the banks' action. "These demands were totally unexpected, as constructive negotiations had continued up to the egm on Friday and no indication had been received of this precipitate action."

Danish vote dents Warburg profit

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PROFITS at SG Warburg, the City's leading merchant bank, slumped this summer after the bank lost more than £10 million in the wild gyrations of European money markets.

Warburg yesterday announced a 44 per cent plunge in pre-tax profits to £51.2 million in the half year to the end of September. The figures were far lower than the City was expecting and the shares fell 45p to 479p, wiping £89 million off the company's market value. The bank maintained its interim dividend at 5.25p.

Part of the profit fall was caused by heavy losses in the bank's fixed interest division, traditionally a strong profit earner. The division took a gamble during the summer that European interest rates would continue to converge due

to the pressures imposed by the exchange-rate mechanism. But it was caught by surprise in the aftermath of the Danish referendum on Maastricht and later by Black Wednesday when yields on British and European bonds moved apart sharply. The resulting losses cancelled out the high fees earned from advising Midland on the bid from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and acting as joint lead manager on the Wellcome share issue.

Warburg also suffered an £11.6 million loss from the closure of its German office equipment leasing business that it set up in 1989 and has continually suffered heavy bad debts. Lord Cairns, the group's chief executive, said the bank was watching its leasing businesses in France and Portugal closely, although big ticket leasing continued to perform well.

Until now, Warburg has always prospered in volatile trading and its setback surprised the City. "This shows that

Warburgs are as vulnerable as the next man when it comes to markets like these," said Alison Deuchars, a bank analyst at Smith New Court. Profits were also hit by the cutbacks in Warburg's smaller companies equity dealing.

Mercury Asset Management, the group's 75 per cent owned investment manager, suffered a £4 million provision as it wrote off the rest of its investment in Isosceles. Peter Stormonth Darling, Mercury's outgoing chairman, said trading at Isosceles had worsened since the firm made its last provision in March.

Despite the provisions, Mercury's profits rose by £1.5 million to £35.5 million, helped by a rate rebate on its City headquarters and a £1 billion rise in assets under management to a record £41 billion. The firm is increasing its interim dividend by 15 per cent to 3p.

Comment, page 25



Constrained by Autumn Statement: Michael Heseltine speaking to the CBI conference in Harrogate yesterday

Heseltine fails to convince CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders remained unconvinced of the government's economic and industrial strategy yesterday, after a speech by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, in which he embraced calls from industry for a new partnership with the government.

Throughout the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Harrogate, delegates had been eagerly awaiting Mr Heseltine's speech, hoping he would put flesh on the bones of the framework of policy so far indicated by ministers in the wake of Britain's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism.

But in a speech which, it is understood, was written on the plane flight to Harrogate, Mr Heseltine was clearly constrained both by the imminence of tomorrow's Autumn Statement from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and the row embroiling him and the government over the Matrix Churchill affair.

From the moment he appeared at the CBI's conference centre, Mr Heseltine was pursued by reporters with questions about his role in the affair, which he largely tried to shrug off. Immediately his speech was over he raced back to London to deal with the issue, abandoning a private lunch with business leaders.

In his speech, he said the Autumn Statement would set out details of a clear, stable economic policy for growth, and his answer to questions about whether the government would work as a partner with British industry was a single word: yes.

Many CBI leaders were clearly disappointed with it, and switched the focus of their attention to the content of the Autumn Statement.

One CBI figure said of the speech: "It was all right. They were looking for something with content — and they didn't

get it. They got some things, but it was small stuff."

Privately, a number of CBI leaders agreed with Roland Long, who condemned the speech as "long on charisma, short on substance". He said Mr Heseltine had "responded to some of the sentiments, but to none of the problems".

Another delegate, Keith Dutton, of Medway Packaging, was disappointed that Mr Heseltine had failed to respond to criticism of the government's nine closures announcement, or to show that the government would provide support equal to that offered by overseas governments to companies.

Others were still withholding

their judgment. John Mortimer, group operations executive at Hanson's ARC subsidiary in construction materials, said that if industry benefited from economic improvement it would feed through to beleaguered construction. Both he and Robert Phillippson, director-general of the British Aggregates Construction Materials, said that otherwise they were withholding judgment until the Chancellor unveiled his plans tomorrow.

John Hackett, director-general of the Federation of Civil Engineers, said: "Though the manufacturers seem relatively encouraged by Mr Heseltine we have to see whether the

Thursday announcements measure up to expectations."

Sir Michael Angus, the CBI president, and Howard Davies, the director-general, were more upbeat about the speech. Sir Michael said it was "full of good stuff", while Mr Davies said it was "what we hoped to hear from him". Mr Davies hoped that tomorrow's Autumn Statement would mean "an end to the open season on government". He said that the Chancellor needed to cover more than the Autumn Statement usually did. The government had to give a clear statement of economic policy — and then stick to it.

Speeches, page 22

GRAHAM GOOCH AND CHALLENGER



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CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY AT HARROGATE

Heseltine says partnership is essential for economy

By Philip Bassett

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, yesterday publicly embraced the Confederation of British Industry's call for a new partnership between government and industry.

In a speech that drew at best mixed reactions from delegates at the CBI's annual conference in Harrogate, he issued at the same time a fresh call for pay restraint in the private sector as well as public sector.

Having sat through a number of calls for partnership during the CBI's debate on the future of manufacturing industry, Mr Heseltine opened his half-hour keynote address to the conference by concentrating on the issue.

He said: "I have been asked whether the government will work as a partner with British industry. The answer comes in a single word: yes.

"Such a partnership is essential if we are to succeed in the world market place and to generate the wealth on which an advanced industrial economy depends."

But he warned against pointless arguments about what such a partnership might mean: "One man's partnership is another man's intervention. One man's demand for a level playing field is another man's call for more civil servants."

Britain, he said, was the only country where such a "sterile debate" hung over the commercial world: "Of course there is a partnership. Or should be. What objection of national self interest could permit otherwise? But the essence of partnership is that it delivers — delivers for both sides."

On pay, he said that unfavourable levels of productivity had led to lower levels of profitability, and then in turn to reduced investment and finally to even lower productivity.

Britain had to reverse such a cycle of decline, and the key to that was a tight control of costs. Previous currency devaluations had been followed by

INDUSTRY

rising import costs and high wage demands, leading in turn to high inflation and lack of competitiveness, and it was essential that this did not occur again following the withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism.

He told the conference: "Wage settlements continue at a level that cannot be afforded if we are to sustain our position. With inflation below 4 per cent and unemployment approaching 3 million, there is no justification for significant pay rises."

Management, he said, must "take very seriously its responsibilities", while government was very aware of the role it had to play.

He refused to anticipate the Chancellor's Autumn State-

ment tomorrow, but did say that Norman Lamont would set out policies for encouraging growth: "We need clear, stable policies and not the quick fix or the short-term measure that brings long-term regret."

In a wide-ranging speech, Mr Heseltine touched on a number of areas of government concern. On the current stalemate in the Gatt round, he said the government was doing all it could to bring the sides together: "I do not need to tell this audience of the consequences of a trade war. There would be no winners. The cost would be incalculable."

He said that concluding the Gatt round would, according to Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development estimates, add £200 billion to annual world output. There was no other single measure any government could take which could even begin to approach this.

Mr Heseltine stressed the importance of competitiveness to the government's industrial policy, sketching in trade and industry department initiatives aimed at improving competitiveness. These include a study of measures applied in other countries and asking companies about the state of the economy as it concerns them.

He announced that Lord Sainsbury had agreed to act for a year as his part-time adviser on deregulation, operating through a specific unit in Whitehall with its own chief executive. He also spoke on education, training, environmental issues, export credits, innovation and the single market.

A CBI-backed initiative to recruit the country's brightest graduates into industry — is being launched today.

Industrial leaders are anxious that they will not be hit by the skill shortages which beset them at the end of the last recession at the beginning of the last decade.

The vehicle for the recruiting drive is a travelling exhibition called Enterprise 92. About 40 industrial companies have teamed up to put it on the road, among them British Airways, Shell, Kodak, BT and Ford.

Two major exhibitions will be in Birmingham and Manchester later this month, targeting more than 100,000 students from 26 universities and polytechnics.

Students will be introduced to the wide variety of present day industry from fibre-optic communications to the research and development work surrounding aerospace technology.

Top students will be pointed to career opportunities around Europe. More than 500 vocational job opportunities will also be on offer.

WHAT THEY SAID

"It's the Autumn Statement on Thursday, and we would love you to talk about it. But we understand that if you do, the Chancellor will kill you."

Sir Michael Angus, CBI president, welcoming Michael Heseltine

"I'm sick to death of French farmers. I'm sick to death of the European common agricultural policy. If EC leaders want to move the Community forward, then the first thing they have to do is give agriculture the importance it deserves. And that is considerably less than it enjoys at present."

Norman Sussman, of the British Clothing Industry Association, on the stalemate in the Gatt talks

"I regard him as our knight in shining armour. I think it's slightly nearer than a loincloth and swinging through the jungle."

Simon Ecclesstone, of Conveyors Ltd, about Michael "Tarzan" Heseltine

"The cost of money wasn't a problem until we borrowed."

[On interest rates]

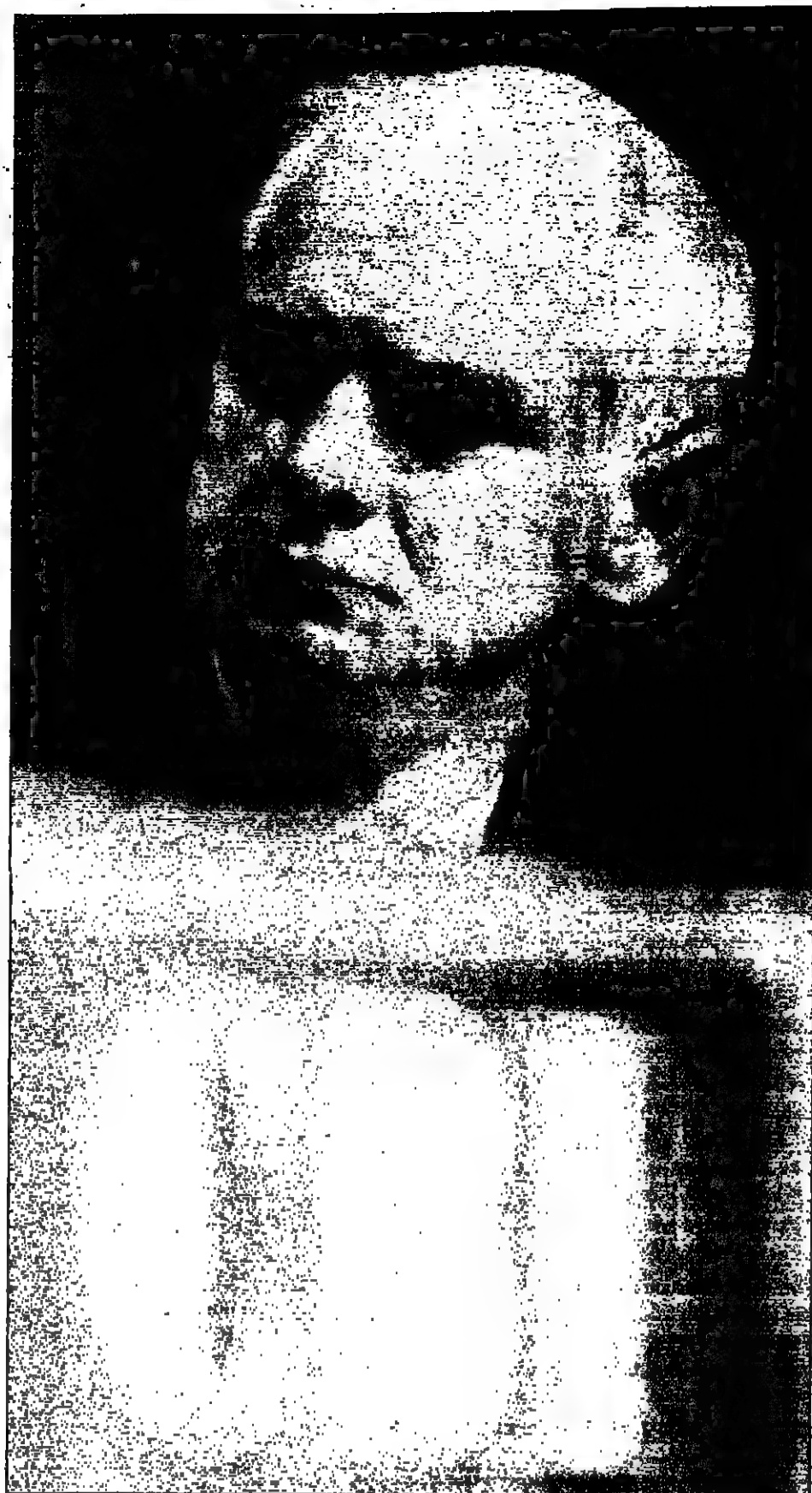
"There's no denying that a blockbuster would be useful."

[On thinking up new products]

Two managers quoted in a DTI/CBI survey on innovation

"It is a piece of cake simply to call for clarity in government policy. I, sir, know it is easy, because I do it myself from time to time, and in periods like this, one even gets away with it."

Howard Davies, CBI director-general



Confident voice: Howard Davies said this autumn had been a watershed

Davies says fall of pound offers a chance

By Ross Tienan

HOWARD Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, called on business to put its house in order and to seize the opportunities offered by sterling's devaluation.

Pressing for a "partnership" with government, he said that if ministers responded to business pleadings on policy, business would have to deliver growth and prosperity. "There is now an opportunity, which we must collectively seize," he said.

His appeal, made to 1,000 delegates at the CBI's annual conference in Harrogate, reflected growing confidence among business leaders that their views are at last being taken into account. It also reflected the CBI's blueprint for industrial policy, *Making it in Britain*, which indicates that much responsibility for rebuilding industry lies in managers' hands.

Britain now enjoyed the advantages of a favourable exchange rate, low inflation and the lowest interest rates in Europe, Mr Davies said.

"We must now convert these advantages into real output. That means addressing... weaknesses in investment, skills, taxation regulation and, dare I say it, management."

Mr Davies rejected charges that industry was prone to blame the government for its

failings. "Most CBI members are well aware that the overall economic picture is the summation of the individual efforts of millions of economic actors." But he reminded business leaders that if public sector pay were pegged, as the CBI wished, their pay rises, too, would come under public scrutiny.

The former treasury advisor, who joined the CBI four months ago, castigated the government for its policy failings. "This autumn has been a watershed," he said. "The best indicator we have of the scale of the changes... is the... volume of protestations by the Treasury that policy has remained essentially the same."

Alluding to promises by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, to intervene more on behalf of business, Mr Davies said there was "more of a need for industrial intervention in government". He set out four principles which should underpin a "strategy for growth".

Free trade was critical. If the European Commission could not deliver a Gatt agreement on world trade, "they should step aside for people who can". Prosperity depended, too, on a strong home market. Domestic inflation must be kept low, and financial conditions stable. And tax and spending policies must be designed to promote enterprise and growth.

Cadbury faces demands for tighter legislation control

By Derek Harris

CONTINUING differences between the CBI and the Cadbury Committee were underlined during the debate on corporate governance.

However, Sir Adrian Cadbury, who headed the committee that produced a draft report on the financial aspects of running companies, and Hanson's Martin Taylor, who is chairman of the CBI companies committee, showed signs of smoothing the emergence of the final report, due next month.

That would launch a code of best practice, initially for listed companies. It would tackle the sort of concerns that have grown in the wake of such affairs as BCCI and Maxwell, as well as controversy over directors' pay.

Sir Adrian faced growing demands for legislation to toughen regulation of companies. Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil and a member of the CBI's South East regional council, told the conference that self-regulation would not work. "If we really want effective change to protect shareholders legislation seems the only way."

Michael Harding, of Ernst & Young, the accountant, intervened to ask: "Can self-regulation ever be strong enough? We have our doubts, especially about self-regulation as we have it today."

Sir Adrian admitted that there was a wind of change "blowing much more briskly in the direction of regulation than when we brought out the draft report in May." But he saw no reason to move in a legal direction. He said: "Fundamentally, the test is disclosure. We can leave everything to the good sense of boards and shareholders provided everything is out in the open."

Mr Taylor denied that the CBI was opposed to the key recommendations. It welcomed Sir Adrian's self-regulatory approach and, like his committee, did not favour major intrusion of the law into corporate governance.

However, there is still a clash over the Cadbury proposal that compliance with the code should be part of the Stock Exchange's listing agreement. Mr Taylor reiterated CBI opposition, maintaining it would make the code less capable of change and interpretation while also creating more bureaucracy.

Sir Adrian made it clear that it would not be compliance as

COMPANIES

such that should be subject to the listing agreement but a statement of compliance. He said: "Compliance should indeed be a matter for shareholders as the CBI proposes. It can only be so if the shareholders know precisely where their boards stand in relation to the code. So the statement of compliance is crucial."

This was why the committee had also proposed that compliance should be reviewed by auditors, said Sir Adrian. Later, Mr Taylor said the CBI questioned that because auditors had no means of assessing management and stewardship issues, which together with board structures were the primary concerns of the code.

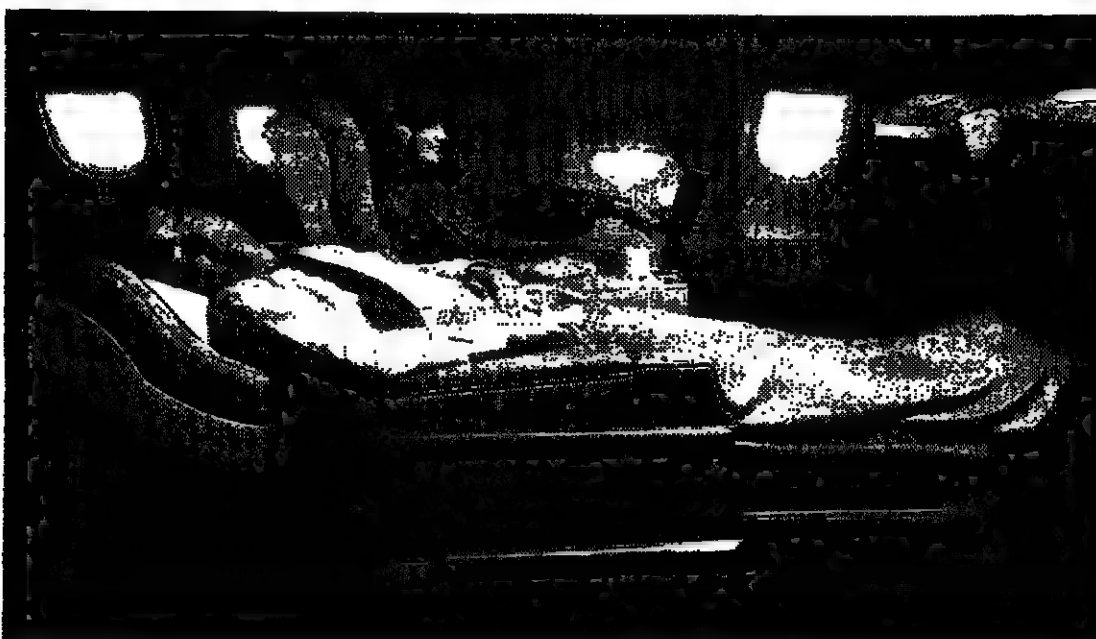
Mr Taylor said: "CBI members can identify with the code as a statement of best practice."

But many companies could still find some of their practices outside a number of the code's provisions and yet be financially sound, successful, reputable and respected."

Sir Adrian said he did not accept the policing argument: "All directors have an equal supervisory responsibility under the law; it is not a function reserved for non-executive directors." He added: "Whatever responsibilities boards assign to non-executive directors, and whatever our recommendations in this regard, the final power of decision rests with the board as a whole."

Alluding to worries that two-tier boards might be created, he said: "The board's collective authority is not undermined by our recommendations and so the unitary board principle remains intact. We will ensure that our final report makes clear our support for the unitary board structure."

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£25,000 plus	7.30
MAXIMISER Independent Access	6.10
MAXIMISER Independent Accumulator†	8.10
MAXIMISER Independent Bond II Re-Issue	
£5,000 - £24,999	8.10
£25,000 plus	8.45
MAXIMISER Independent Bond (Issue III)	
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£25,000 - £24,999 (Income)	7.75
£25,000 plus	8.45
£25,000 plus (Income)	8.08
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Power chief highlights franchise market

Scope to sell 'extra 20m tonnes of coal'

By PATRICIA TEBIAN

JOHN Baker, chief executive of Britain's biggest electricity generator, National Power, told MPs yesterday there was a market for another 20 million tonnes of coal if other fuels, particularly gas, were squeezed out of the franchise electricity market.

The franchise market, mostly domestic and small business customers, accounts for 70 per cent of electricity sales in England and Wales.

Alternatively, he said, the taxpayer could subsidise the sale of British coal at world prices, which would also create a larger market for coal by allowing British Coal to compete with imports and make coal-fired power more competitive.

Mr Baker was giving evidence to the back-bench trade and industry select committee, which is examining the government's pit closure plan.

Much of the blame for the planned closures has fallen on long-term contracts for gas-fired power from independent

National Power is willing and able to use larger amounts of British-produced coal but expects electricity consumers or taxpayers to shoulder the extra cost

generators, signed by 11 of the 12 regional electricity groups.

Mr Baker said the five-year contracts under negotiation between British Coal and National Power and PowerGen could be supplemented by 20 million tonnes a year.

The volumes under negotiation are for 40 million tonnes of coal next year, falling to 30 million tonnes the following four years. Mr Baker believes that market could be increased to a maximum of 70 million tonnes in the first year and 50 million tonnes thereafter.

In his written evidence to the committee, Mr Baker stated: "National Power is both willing and able to use larger amounts of British-produced coal, though somewhat less than in the current year,

provided that a market can be found for the electricity to be generated from the coal." Finding a way to enlarge the market is, he said, a matter for the government.

But he stressed that either the electricity consumer or the taxpayer would have to shoulder the cost.

He said the easiest way of enlarging the market would be to continue the present arrangement where the franchise market bears the higher cost of burning coal from British Coal. This would mean clearing the franchise sector of other sources of electricity, particularly gas-fired power from independent generators, and forcing them to compete for sales to industrial customers in the non-franchise market.



NATIONAL Express, the long distance coach group, forecasts it will make £6.5 million before tax in 1992 in its draft prospectus released yesterday. This is an improvement on the £1.2 million pre-tax loss suffered in 1991, during which time Ray McEnhill (above) and Adam Mills acquired the group in a management buy-in. Their syndicate paid £10 million, but National Express is expected to be floated

off for between £60 million and £80 million. Some of the money will be used to revitalise the balance sheet, which shows a net deficit of £11 million. The group is going public via a placing, with 25 per cent of the shares subject to clawback to meet any demand from an offer for sale. Mr McEnhill and Mr Mills own 20 per cent of the company. Terms of the offer are expected to be announced on November 24.

VSEL profits rise but 1,900 jobs will still be cut

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VSEL Consortium, the nuclear submarine builder, is urging the government to bring forward initiatives designed to help create new jobs for the thousands of workers hit by the cutbacks in the warship building industry.

Noel Davies, chief executive, said yesterday that VSEL will be forced to cut staff by 1,900 to about 7,000, at the lower end of its forecasts made when the rationalisation programme was announced last year. Three years ago VSEL employed 16,600 staff.

Lord Chalfont, chairman, called on the government to assist the regeneration of areas affected by the cutbacks.

VSEL yesterday revealed that pre-tax profits for the half year to end-September increased by 16 per cent to £25.9 million on turnover down from £256 million to £234 million. The interim is increased from 8p to 9p, and shareholders are being offered a scrip dividend alternative.

VSEL is sitting on net cash of £160 million. Cash inflow during the half-year was high-

er than expected, thanks to the phasing of payments on big defence contracts at £57.4 million, leaving a balance of cash and cash equivalent of £259.2 million.

Mr Davies said the company is looking for acquisitions. VSEL is almost entirely dependent on defence business, but hopes that 25 per cent of its turnover will come from commercial products by 1995.

He said this will be achieved by acquisitions rather than development of its Barrow shipyard. The company would have made more progress in developing Barrow, he said, "if it had not been for the recession".

VSEL's diversification has been limited to offshore oil and gas contracting, based at Barrow. Last week the company won a £2.5 million order for pre-assembled units for British Gas' Morecambe Bay project.

Mr Davies said VSEL is still in talks about the sale of the whole or parts of its Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead.

Lloyd's dynasty sells out to US broking group

THE Frizzell family, one of the best known Lloyd's insurance dynasties, is selling out to Marsh & McLennan, the US insurance broking group, for £107 million. The 20 family shareholders in Frizzell Group will receive about £40 million as a result of the deal. The rest of the company is owned by 31 management and staff. The 31 shareholders represented the investment group's single biggest unquoted equity holding. The investment dated back to 1954 when 31 put £40,000 in the company. It will realise about £40 million.

The core financial services division, the part of the company being sold, generates about 90 per cent of Frizzell's £9 million annual profits. The division specialises in insurance for groups such as trade unions.

TNT shares fall 30%

SHARES of TNT, the international transport group, fell nearly 30% after the company reported a first-quarter loss of A\$65.12 million (£30 million) at its annual meeting. The news and a sometimes hostile meeting was also told that a dividend was unlikely to be paid until after the 1992 financial year and that Sir Peter Abeles, the co-founder, was relinquishing his executive position. The run on TNT helped to drag the Australian market to a 20-month low, with TNT closing down 22 cents at a record low of 53 cents, against a pre-1987 crash high of A\$5.88. This year's loss comes after two financial years of losses.

UB buys snacks group

UNITED Biscuits has paid £195.5 million, including assumption of debt, for the snacks business of Coca-Cola Amatil, the Australian snacks market leader. CCA Snacks sells several brands in Europe and the Far East including Smiths, Samboys and Lites crisps and Nobby's and Planter's nuts and has operations in Europe, mainly in Italy. UB is part-funding the deal with a placing of 24.1 million new shares at 332p, or just less than 5 per cent of the existing share capital, to raise £80 million, the balance of the price lifting total borrowings by 50 per cent. CCA made 1991 trading profits of £16.4 million on £182.3 million turnover.

Norcross pegs payout

NORCROS, the building materials and specialist print and packaging group, has pegged its interim dividend at 3.5p on pre-tax profits of £5.6 million (£5.3 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover declined to £191.2 million (£196.3 million). Earnings per share were 2.5p (3p). Redundancies brought exceptional costs of £2.7 million, partly offset by lower interest charges of £3.5 million (£4.3 million). Property disposals amounted to £10.7 million and borrowings have been reduced by £8.2 million to £119.9 million. Operating profits before exceptional costs rose 11 per cent to £11.7 million. The shares rose 2p to 113p.

Marshall's pays same

MARSHALLS, the building materials group, reported pre-tax profits of £6.4 million (£7.1 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover slipped to £93.2 million (£97.9 million). Fully diluted earnings per share fell to 2.63p (3.23p) and there is an unchanged 1.25p interim. The group raised £20.1 million through a rights issue in June that, combined with stricter control of costs, helped reduce interest charges from £2.8 million to £1.7 million. Acquisitions are planned. Bad debts, including credit insurance premiums, rose from £400,000 to £450,000, and more than £550,000 was paid out for redundancies.

Casket advances

INCREASED sales of mountain bikes and lower interest charges helped Casket, the bicycles and clothing group, boost pre-tax profits 79 per cent to £1.9 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose to £50.1 million (£35.4 million). Earnings per share were 1.7p (0.9p) and there is an interim dividend of 0.3p (0.15p). Profits were reduced at the clothing businesses, affected by severe price and volume pressures. In September, the group acquired Yates (Leicester), a supplier of own-label childrenswear to high street chains, for a maximum of £470,028.

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TEMPUS

Anglian steers steady course

FOR a company as notoriously risk-averse as Anglian Water, the announcement by Alan Smith, the managing director, of preparations for widespread water-metering was unusual.

That said, Anglian is still stressing a sensible concentration on the core business and little interest in expensive diversification. As Mr Smith says, the sort of expense that would buy a business earning worthwhile profits within the context of Anglian as a whole would be hard to justify for a company with a running capital spending programme of £4 billion.

Anglian shares have underperformed since August, hit by technical factors over the dividend and the sale of the Lyonnais des Eaux Dumez stake last month. The sale, by clarifying the relationship between the two companies, might end up being a benefit they are negotiating on three significant overseas projects and are still in the running for the Buenos Aires water management contract.

With a growing population, Anglian has long-term trends in its favour, despite an above-average clean-up bill on pesticides, for example. Omens from the half-year figures suggest the regional economy may be on the up again, with total metered household income up £3.1 million as once-empty new housing stock is filled.

A 7.9 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 6.8p — a rise of 4.2 per cent in real



Testing the water-meter: Alan Smith, Anglian chief

terms — follows a like rise at Thames last week. Hoare Govett's Stephen Doe expects 20.9p for the full year, putting the shares on a yield of 5.9 per cent. They should make further progress.

General Accident

NINE-MONTH figures from General Accident show that the long task of turning

around the general insurance sector continues. Pre-tax losses are down by £96 million to £37 million so far, and the third-quarter loss of £16.4 million compares with £28 million last year. This looks disappointing after the second-quarter profit, but the difference is explained by seasonal factors.

The sector remains cruelly exposed to meteorological mishaps. GA says that but for its £38 million Hurricane

Andrew loss it would have made a nine-month profit. But weather-related insurance claims cannot simply be stuffed below the line as extraordinary items. They are the essence of the business. The sector has enjoyed a fair wind during its recovery phase, allowing the much-needed rate increases to flow unhindered to the bottom line. It may not always be so.

GA may just return to profit for the full year and, weather permitting, could notch up a £100 million surplus in 1993. That would still leave a maintained 26.75p dividend far from being covered by earnings. That will have to wait until 1994 at the earliest. The dividend still looks secure, and the resulting 6.4 per cent yield provides an anchor for the shares in still uncertain times. However, they do not come cheap. At 552p they are at a substantial premium to year-end net asset forecasts of between 400p and 450p and are well up with events.

A year-end change at Garmy and the move to FR3 contributed another £3.5 million to profits, which also may not be seen again. But even the draconian step of stripping out all these potential one-offs only has the effect of reducing profit growth to 20 per cent — still impressive. Shareholders are rewarded with a 10 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 3.85p (3.5p).

At the full year, shareholders might expect rather more in the way of assurances that Inter Innovations — however integrated it may be — is paying its way. Despite the progress and likely profits approaching £100 million this year, the shares, at 648p, on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 18, look expensive.

De La Rue
BY COMPLYING with the new Financial Reporting Standard 3 and including a balance sheet, De La Rue's results for the six months to end-September are the model of audited correctness. But there is more to the bank-note and payment systems group than doing the right thing. There is a bank-vault-like balance sheet for a start. Last year's acquisition of Inter In-

novation; the Swedish cash dispenser group, may have cost more than £90 million, and the mopping-up of extra shares in Garmy, the German subsidiary, a few millions more, but that still left more than £50 million of the £160 million rights issue accompanying the acquisition unspent. With the group's businesses generating funds, net cash stands at £110 million.

That cash contributed £5.8 million to pre-tax profits of £46 million, a slightly flattening 43 per cent up on last year. The rewards of holding cash, particularly sterling, are likely to fall significantly in the second half, so the company must feel under some pressure to find the right acquisition.

The rest of the equity market rose back above 2,700 in thin trading; the bulk of trading was carried out between various market-makers. The FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day, with a rise of 19.2 to 2,714.6.

Early attention was focused on the water companies after Ofwat's regulatory authority, published its latest review. Anglian rose 12p to 479p. Northumbrian 10p to 543p. North West 15p to 497p. Severn Trent 11p to 465p. South West 15p to 510p and Wessex 18p to 596p.

United Biscuits fell 9p to 337p after announcing plans to buy the snack food arm of Coca-Cola Amatil, in Australia, for £198 million. To help finance the deal, UB has arranged a placing of 24 million shares. Shares of

There was also heavy turnover in Tarmac as a line of 3 million shares was crossed by Cazenove at 93½p. The shares finished ½p firmer at 94p, with a total of almost 10 million changing hands.

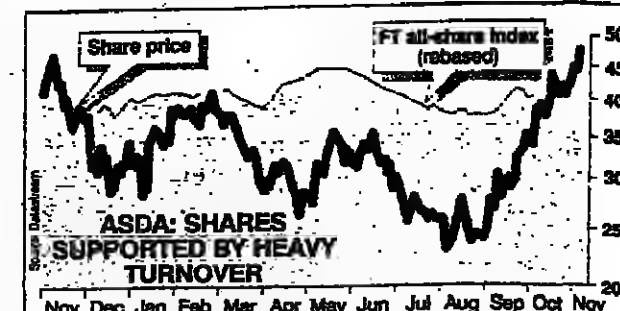
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STOCK MARKET

Institutional buyer snaps up 2% of Asda's shares



BROKERS reported heavy turnover of shares in Asda, the supermarket chain, as one institutional investor snapped up almost 2 per cent of the company. The price firmed 2p to 47½p as more than 46 million shares changed hands, including one transaction of 6.16 million shares at 46½p. Cazenove, the stockbroker, is known to have bought a total of 20 million shares on behalf of an institutional client.

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Cabra Estates, the property developer that owns Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage football grounds, in London, were suspended at 2p pending clarification of the company's financial position.

Ranks Hovis McDougall slipped a further 2p to 257p as turnover dropped below the

London International firmed 1p to 225p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, said the current valuation did not reflect underlying growth prospects. The company, with interests ranging from condoms to consumer brands and latex surgical gloves, offered long-term value.

recent high levels. Tomkins, which has made an agreed bid of £935 million, now speaks for 22 per cent of RHM; it finished 12p lower at 212p.

Blue Circle Industries continued to attract speculative support and the price rose 6p to 176p. There has been talk that Hanson, unchanged at

227p, will turn its attention to Blue Circle.

T&N, the automotive parts group, firmed 7p to 142p after paying £104 million for Goetze, a privately owned German piston ring maker.

SG Warburg, the financial services group, tumbled 45p to 479p after reporting a drop in half-year pre-tax profits from £91.5 million to £51.2 million. But Mercury Asset Management, its publicly quoted fund management arm, rose 17p to 313p after announcing a small interim profit rise.

General Accident jumped 14p to 550p, despite reporting a pre-tax loss for the first nine months of £36.7 million, down from £133.1 million. Hambros Bank, reporting later today, eased 4p to 244p.

A better than expected rise in interim pre-tax profits lifted VSEL 19p to 488p, while De La Rue, the security printer, eased 5p to 648p, despite reporting half-year profits up from £31.1 million to £46 million.

MICHAEL CLARK



General Accident

UNDERLYING RECOVERY CONTINUES IN THIRD QUARTER

9-MONTHS' RESULTS

	9 Months to 30.9.92 Estimated £m	9 Months to 30.9.91 Estimated £m
General Premiums	2,629.0	2,435.0
Life Premiums	555.4	396.0
Net Investment Income	301.5	276.0
Underwriting Loss	(348.5)	(419.9)
Loss before Taxation	(36.7)	(133.1)
Loss attributable to Shareholders	(34.1)	(120.2)
Earnings per share	(7.8p)	(27.7p)

- Pre-tax loss of £36.7m at the nine months includes losses on Hurricane 'Andrew' of £38m net.
- Underlying recovery continues in the third quarter, particularly in the UK which shows further marked improvement.
- US result distorted by losses on Hurricane 'Andrew'.
- Excellent results in Canada and the Pacific.
- Life operations continue to make good progress.
- Net investment income increases by 5.3%.

Nelson Robertson, Chief Executive, commented:
"The pace of our underlying recovery is accelerating as strong management action proves increasingly effective."

General Accident plc

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

WALL STREET

New York — Blue chips lost early gains and turned lower in late-morning trade as some large-capitalisation technology stocks weakened, traders said. The broad and second-order markets held firm, however, supported by a rally in bonds. Bonds advanced after the US producer price index for October showed mild inflation, rising only 0.3 per cent. Excluding food and energy, the index fell 0.1 per cent. The Dow Jones industrial average was off 2.71 points at 3,238.16. In the broad market, gains held a slim lead over losses.

Tokyo — The Nikkei index rose 20.06 points to 16,437.11. (Reuters)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	FALLS:
Morland 386p (+25p)	Chubb Security 197
A McAlpine 118p (+10p)	Dorling Kindersley 165 224 +1
Laporte 810p (+16p)	Foreign & Col PEP Inv Trs 102
Dixons Group 238p (+11p)	Jos Holdings Capital 31
SKF B 712p (+50p)	Jos Zed Div Pl 91
Takeda Chem 850p (+11p)	Linx Printing Techs 130 148
General Accident 550p (+14p)	Parimall 2 6
CE Health 288p (+10p)	Tepnel Diagnostics 120 168
Liberty Life 708p (+18p)	Trinity 120 140
Eng China Clays 444p (+12p)	Vardon 45 46
VSEL 488p (+18p)	Wetherpoon (J.O.) 164 170 +5
Closing Prices Page 27	

RECENT ISSUES

ISSUES			
Beta Global Brng C (100)	97	...	
Chubb Security	197	...	
Coorting Kindersley (165)	224	+	1
Foreign & CO PEP Inv Trs	102	...	
os Holdings Capital	31	...	
os Holdings Income	91	...	
os Zm Div Pf	107	+	1
Unix Printing Techs (130)	148	...	
Pharmigan (2)	6	...	
Templ Diagnostics (120)	168	...	
Trinity (120)	140	...	
Vardon (45)	46	...	
Waterspoon (J.D.) (160)	170	+	5

Byatt enters murky waters

In Byatt's latest attempt to explain his regulatory thinking before the periodic review of water price limits has an impenetrably gnomic quality, but should not be criticised for that. In consulting as widely and openly as possible in advance, in order that the regulated companies and the markets should know his thinking, the director-general of water services is setting an example his colleagues in the regulation business could usefully follow. This morning, he will go one further by hosting a meeting with City analysts at his Birmingham fastness to elucidate.

The paper Ofwat issued yesterday, *Assessing Capital Values at the Periodic Review*, is vital to the price-setting. To assess the cost of capital, in effect the return on capital, he has to define the capital. This is not a simple process, not least because the ten water and sewage companies were privatised for £5.3 billion, although they had assets with a replacement value well above £100 billion. The opaqueness of the document appears to owe something to the horror expressed by those who read an early Ofwat draft. Mr Byatt's supposition that the cost of capital can fall heavily, from that assumed at privatisation, rested on buoyant market values of water shares. The trouble with that approach is that the share prices fluctuate sharply on perceived regulatory risk. They also respond, as yesterday's rises showed, to expectations of short-term interest rate movements.

Using market values, plus borrowing to assess capital brings a similar dilemma. If share prices determine the capital, then price limits would logically have to be set to leave those valuations unchanged, which could please the stock market but place the regulator in a straitjacket of his own making. He now seems to be thinking of adjusting initial market values of £6.1 billion for subsequent and future capital spending. In the end, he may have to opt for the original formulation, which rested on allowing earnings cover for reasonable rises in real dividends and for loan interest, though the real dividend rises and the interest cover would surely be much smaller than at privatisation.

Waterlogged

Warburg has walked on water for so long that the City was shocked when it admitted it had got its feet wet. A £56 million half-year profit from a merchant bank is good in current market conditions, but the 44 per cent fall displayed human failings too graphically for the stock market's liking. The bank was certainly not alone in being wrong-footed by the Danish referendum or Black Wednesday, as senior cabinet ministers would agree. The resulting loss of up to £15 million shows once again the risks banks take daily in financial markets.

In some cases, institutions do not appreciate the extent of the risk they are running until it is too late. Some day soon a bank may suffer a market loss that will make the events at Warburg and others seem like threatening tremors that were ignored.

The unconnected £11.6 million loss at Warburg's German leasing subsidiary is typical of another failing that occurs regularly among banks. Time and again they admit to losses in businesses which the investing public did not even know they owned. The perils of expansion in any financial market are numerous and the penalties heavy. Warburg is still Britain's most successful merchant bank and should recover rapidly from this stumble. Lord Cairns, the chief executive, and the rest of the management should, however, be chastened by these reminders that not even the best bank is completely watertight.

ABB's prophet of smallness points the way to profit in the nineties

The company employs 215,000, has 5,000

profit centres and three layers of management.

It should be seen as a model, says Tom Peters

The consumer is king. Big companies, used to having their own way, must learn to respond quickly and efficiently to consumer demands. This means loosening the reins of central control to allow more room for individual initiative. Only a fickle, decentralised operation will survive in a fickle, decentralised global economy. Decentralisation means the demise of central staff.

In fact, it is arrogant to suggest that you can "manage" at all from the centre in a fickle economy. The best you can do as the head of a large organisation is to unleash the power of subordinate units to develop distinct personalities of their own and to play the lead role in responding to a fickle market place.

A prime example of what this means in practice is Zurich-based Asea Brown Boveri, a heavyweight in the electrical power and equipment industry, led by Percy Barnevik.

When Barnevik took over as managing director of Sweden's Asea in 1980, he found a central staff of 2,000, gasped, and reduced it to 200. He told surplus executives that they had three months to find jobs in the company's line operating units.

"You can't postpone tough decisions by studying them to death," Barnevik argues. "You can't permit a honeymoon of small changes over a year or two. A long series of small changes just prolongs the pain... You have to accept a fair share of mistakes but I'd rather be roughly right and fast than exactly right and slow."

He stuck to those principles through a succession of takeovers. When ABB acquired Finland's premier company Stromberg, a headquarters of 880 greeted him. A couple of years later that number was 25. At the German ABB headquarters in Mannheim, Barnevik found a staff of 1,600 in 1988. Now there are 100.

Barnevik has the business of reducing central staff down to a science. He insists the head count in any headquarters activity can be cut by 90 per cent the first year. About 30 per cent disappear through attrition and other layoffs; another 30 per cent go to outlying profit centres and 30 per cent join service centres, often new companies, that tender for business at market prices.

But that is just the start. By year three or four, Barnevik declares, the 30 per cent in the profit centres can be reduced by a third, the 30 per cent in the service centres can be reduced by half and the 10 per cent in the corporate centre should be further cut by half. Add it up, and about 30 per



Enemy of bureaucracy: Percy Barnevik says any headquarters head count can be cut by 90 per cent in a year

cent of the staff is eliminated in the first year, another 30 per cent by year three or four — and after the second round of cuts, only 5 per cent will remain in the corporate centre.

This is precisely what happened when Asea and Brown Boveri merged in 1987. Asea, of course, had already reduced its centre to rubble; now Brown Boveri absorbed the sledgehammer's blow — a rapid cut of its pre-merger 4,000-person central complement to 200. To run the newly combined entity, Barnevik created a headquarters with a complement of 100 professionals and a clerical support team of 50.

ABB has some 5,000 autonomous profit centres, each employing an average 50 people. They have their own profit and loss accounts and balance sheets; they own assets; and they serve customers directly. Each of these elements is important, but none more so than the last.

"Everything changes when there's a real customer yelling at you from the other end of the phone," Barnevik says. A direct link with customers transforms the little unit into a "real business". A profit centre is led by a management team of five or, as Barnevik puts it, the centres are run

collectively by "5,000 profit-responsible individuals with teams of three or four". Suddenly, vast ABB seems a lot more manageable — which is precisely the point.

Born in western Sweden, where his father ran a small printers, Barnevik often contends that his operating philosophy is no more than a large-scale extension of print shop logic. Consider the 5,000 profit centres as 500 print shops.

Barnevik is the most insistent enemy of bureaucracy I have met. His gargantuan operation has just three layers of management. A 13-member executive committee (including Barnevik) runs the show. Below it come 250 senior executives including the business area chiefs, then the profit centre managers. That's it — only two layers between the big chiefs and the high performance team members on the shop floor.

Business area chiefs, 65 in all, operating in business segments ranging from power plants and power transmission to robotics and superchargers, have responsibility for global strategy within agreed budgets. In practice, business area chiefs and

their small staffs are itinerant preachers — cajoling, comparing unit and competitor results, arranging job transfers for people, transferring knowledge gained from here to there.

The business area concept is purposefully fluid. Its base may move from country to country, depending upon business needs and opportunities. Teams range in size from one to 11. Overall, it is an exaggeration to say that Barnevik is obsessed — a word he regularly uses — with keeping business area staff tiny and responsive to profit centres.

It is these small, independent units which, in all companies, will come to play the lead role in responding to a fickle market place.

I believe there is something special for today's fickle world about the number of 50, the strength of a typical profit centre at ABB. In every case I have studied, the modestly sized grouping turns out to be amazingly effective (both efficient and flexible), and capable of competing with anyone.

But the lesson has still to get through to most European companies. Some have gone into reverse. In preparation for the open market of 1993 and beyond, they have gone on

a merger binge, a plunge towards business for business's sake. What they should be doing, however, is narrowing their range of businesses while investing to build up a focused international market position in core businesses.

Paul Geroski, a professor at the London Business School, makes the point: "On the whole, the evidence suggests that the benefits of scale are modest... In the vast majority of [European] markets, the probable consequence of 1992 will be an increase in product variety." Geroski provides, as partial support for his hypothesis, a comparison between Britain (with a disproportionate share of huge companies) and Germany. "The [British] tend to manufacture relatively standard products in long runs, with production often taking place in plants specialised in one product," he writes. "German... manufacturers, by contrast, produce a great variety of high-quality goods in small batches... Surprisingly enough, this strategy has involved no apparent sacrifice in productive efficiency — German output per employee is roughly twice that in the UK."

America used to be the model for "big-is-great". Now Japan is giantism's supposed paragon. Well, we had some of the story wrong all along. Big Japanese firms were always much less vertically integrated and made much greater use of very small subcontractor "shops", than big American or European firms. But that's the least of it. As Americans look east (to Japan), the Japanese, ironically, are looking west (to America and, to some extent, Europe) for more decentralised business models. Big Japanese firms are creating droves of independent subsidiaries to inject entrepreneurialism into their sleepy giants. "The era of mass production is over and that will transform the whole nature of our industrial system," says Tadashi Kayonari, an economist. "The key company of the future will have fewer than 150 employees."

All the major forces at work — technology, the burst of new competitors and upheaval in financial markets, the emergence of the global village — are dissipating old big's former and historically overstated advantages. It really is that simple.

The emphasis on small, self-contained elements even in big collections such as ABB is the essence of necessary disorganisation. Constructing and then perpetually reconstructing networks of such self-contained businesses is the only plausible response to the fickle economy. Percy Barnevik forecasts that on present trends, two thirds of Europe's giant companies will fail in the wake of European economic integration. He is determined that ABB will not be among them.

Tom Peters's new book, *Liberation Management: necessary disorganisation for the nanosecond nineties*, will be published by Macmillan on November 27, price £20.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Row simmers over gilts

A ROW has broken out in the gilt-edged market, with brokers complaining that market-makers refuse to handle small private-client orders. The market in small amounts of stock ground to a virtual standstill on Monday afternoon and was described as being in a state of "total collapse" by frustrated brokers yesterday.

UBS Phillips and Drew, NatWest Gilts and Greenwell, the main market-makers, are being accused of setting lower limits on deals, or ceasing altogether on smaller orders, because of a surge in activity. "We've got 20 deals of £10,000 which we've been trying to push through since 10am," complained one broker last night. "The dealers say the sums are too small, or they have shut up shop. One of them said they were not prepared to deal in sums of less than £50,000." According to the Bank of England, the problem has been building up for weeks, since a government decision to seek early redemption of a 1992-6 issue. The situation has been further exacerbated by expectations of lower base rates. The big dealers admit the market was in crisis yesterday but deny that they stopped dealing. Keith Riley, head of NatWest Gilts, said: "We are still dealing, but our settlements system has broken down two or three times in the last few weeks, and that has been the experience of the other major players." The Stock Exchange has temporarily abolished normal reporting times to ease the situation, and called an urgent meeting to be held at the exchange last night. "The



problem is they have all cut back during the recession and they simply haven't got the personnel to cope with this kind of flow," said one broker.

Hunting accident

SIR Michael Richardson, chairman of Smith New Court, vice-chairman of NM Rothschild and one of the most prominent corporate financiers of his generation, has broken his leg, Richardson, 67, a master of foxhounds, was thrown by his horse as he returned to his Sussex home after hunting on Saturday. The horse, its front legs tangled in wire, kicked Richardson in the knee as he fell and broke his leg. Richardson is now recovering in the Wellington Hospital, London, after an operation to insert pins. His many City friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Doing justice

DOCTOR'S son Sir Peter Taylor, chairman of the 1989 enquiry into the Hillsborough Football Club disaster, and, since June, Lord Chief Justice, lists music — ranging from opera to Fats Waller — as his sole recreation in *Who's Who*. One

of the best kept secrets within the legal profession, however, is the extent of the role music plays in Taylor's life. He first learnt to play the piano at the age of nine as a pupil at Newcastle Royal Grammar School, considered becoming a concert pianist and now, at the age of 62, has achieved that secondary ambition. Last night, to raise £10,000 for the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice, he performed Beethoven and Mozart concertos in front of an audience of 400 in Middle Temple Hall. "He has a terrific reputation as a pianist," says Joan Wheeler-Bennett, chairman of the organising committee, whose husband was once chairman of Northwoods. "When he was on the circuit he would always make sure that there was a piano on hand so that he could entertain his colleagues when the day's work was done." Taylor was accompanied by Maureen Smith, a professional violinist, while, elsewhere in the programme, Viscount (Johnny) Dillhome QC, another lawyer and a noted bass baritone, sang Russian love songs.

Harrogate joker

HOWARD Davies, making his first appearance as director general at this year's CBI conference in Harrogate, was in cracking form yesterday, peppering his keynote address with a string of astringent jokes. Into a passage calling on ministers to help companies export to new markets, he managed to slip an unnamed reference to the Matrix Churchill affair, saying he was not just talking about Iraq, "where we know, of course, that ministers have already done a lot to encourage exports." The four months he

has spent in the job had, he said, seemed like a lifetime, and he told the conference that from companies' views, he had tried to pull together a clear, tight, unambiguous and universally acceptable point of view on economic, European and social policy. "That exercise led inevitably to one obvious conclusion, and the CBI president has my letter of resignation before him."

Opera it's not

STRANGE noises have been coming out of the Broadgate offices of UBS Phillips & Drew in recent days after the distribution of a number of free compact discs featuring a little known rock band, *Painted Face*. The band is being promoted within the firm by Philip Stephens, an executive director of corporate finance, whose son Simon, 21, is the keyboard player in the group. The promotion, which includes posters on in-house noticeboards, is meant to ensure that many P&D employees attend the band's inaugural concert in the Rock Garden, Covent Garden, on November 22. The proud father admits that he is likely to be among the audience, even though he normally prefers the musical entertainment to be found elsewhere in Covent Garden, at the Royal Opera House. "They write their own music and it is all good toe-tapping stuff," says Stephens, who joined P&D from Chase four years ago and was previously a partner of Laurie Milbank. "I haven't asked any of the Swiss yet," adds Stephens, "but if Rudi Mueller (head of the London operation) wants to come, he will be more than welcome."

CAROL LEONARD

What future for Europe?



Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor (left), and Tom Peters, the management guru (right), will speak on vital European issues at The Times/Dillons European Forum.



Chaired by Brian Redhead, the forum will take place at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1 on November 18 at 7.30pm.

THE TIMES DILLONS EUROPEAN FORUM

Please send me invitation(s) at £15 (students & OAPs £7.50) each for the European Forum on November 18, 1992.

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COMMERZBANK AG

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FOR PROFIT SHARING CERTIFICATES

By virtue of the authority granted at the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 27th May, 1992 the Board of Management has resolved to issue DM5,000,000 nominal Profit Sharing Certificates.

The Profit Sharing Certificates are being offered at an issue price of 98.25% per DM100 par value by way of rights at the ratio of 1 for 3 par value to the Company's shareholders on the basis of:

One DM100 nominal Profit Sharing Certificate for every six shares of DM50 nominal held.

The holders of Profit Sharing Certificates will receive an annual distribution of 9.15% of the par value of the Profit Sharing Certificates. The Profit Sharing Certificates are entitled to distribution as from 1st December, 1992 (i.e. one twelfth for the financial year ended 31st December, 1992).

The Profit Sharing Certificates are being offered on the terms of the Company's announcement dated 11th November, 1992. Copies of the announcement with an English translation, are available on request at the office of the London Subscription Agent, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and the London Stockbrokers, Panmure Gordon & Co. Limited.

It is not intended to seek quotation for the Profit Sharing Certificates on the London Stock Exchange, however, the subscription rights will be traded under Rule 535.4 during the period 17th November, 1992 to 30th November, 1992 inclusive.

PROCEDURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Holders in the United Kingdom wishing to take up rights must lodge the following:

Bearer Share Certificates - Coupon No. 55 and apply during the subscription period 17th November, 1992 to 2nd December, 1992 inclusive, at the offices of the London Subscription Agents between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. where lodgement forms are obtainable.

Holders of London Deposit Certificates wishing to subscribe must lodge their certificates for marking Square No. 18 no later than 9.00 a.m. 30th November, 1992.

Payment must be made in full on application. Holders wishing to make payment in Sterling should agree the applicable rate of exchange with the London Subscription Agents.

Holders of entitlements may instruct the London Subscription Agents to buy or sell rights on their behalf to round their entitlements but in order to do so their forms must be lodged with the London Subscription Agents by 9.00 a.m. 30th November, 1992.

The Profit Sharing Certificates will be represented by a global certificate which will be deposited with Deutscher Kassenverein AG, Frankfurt/Main. Shares in this global certificate can be transferred in amounts divisible by DM100. No claims for delivery of definitive certificates can be made.

Coupons and London Deposit Certificates should be lodged with: S.G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.

Paying Agency: 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA

Coupons only may also be lodged with: COMMERZBANK AG, London Branch, 10/11 Austin Friars, London EC2P 2JD

11th November, 1992 COMMERZBANK AKTIENGESellschaft

مكتبة الأصيل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FT-SE VOLUMES									
Abbey Nat 1,400	Carlton Comm 300	Land Secs 670	Scott Hydro 1,800	New York (midday)	FTSE Euro 100: 1054.50 (+1.21)	LONDON FINANCIAL FEATURES			
A&A 1,400	Con Yvia 1,200	Legal & Co 891	Scott & New 723	Dow Jones 3243.03 (+2.10)	Brussels	Period	Open	High	Low
Anglo Am 1,200	Gen Union 4,800	Lloyds Bk 3,800	Scott Power 1,300	S&P Composite 418.92 (+0.33)	Paris CAC	Dec 92	2721.0	2749.0	2713.0
Argo Gp 3,700	Guinness 1,100	McK Cardy 875	Smith Trans 3,200	Tokyo:	General	Mar 93	2744.0	2760.0	2744.0
Avon 583	La Rue 1,600	M&A 5,000	Siebo 1,500	Nikkei Avg 16437.11 (+20.06)	Zarichs SKA Gen	Dec 92	92.45	92.85	92.31
Avon Foods 46	Lee China 1,100	NFC 953	Smiths Bk 2,100	Hong Kong	Brussels	Mar 93	94.20	94.30	94.17
BA 1,000	Enserch Oil 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	Hang Seng	Paris CAC	Jun 93	96.28	96.28	94.22
BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	Amsterdam	Zarichs SKA Gen	Dec 92	96.28	96.25	95.15
BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	London	FTSE 100	Mar 93	97.50	97.50	97.50
BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	FTSE 100	Brussels	Dec 92	91.80	91.80	91.45
BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	FTSE 100	Paris CAC	Mar 93	92.32	92.32	92.32
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BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk 3,300	Smiths Bk 2,100	FTSE 100	London	Mar 93	97.50	97.50	97.50
BAF 1,000	Fluors 1,000	NW&B Bk							

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total, and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won. If it doesn't, you have lost. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Sedgwick	Insurance	
2	St Western	Electricity	
3	Travis Perkins	Building, Rds	
4	Stm Water	Water	
5	Mission Temp	Breweries	
6	Nonweb	Electricity	
7	Cook (Wm)	Industrial	
8	Hammerhead	Property	
9	Finlay (James)	Foods	
10	TSB	Banks/Dis	
11	Shed	Oil, Gas	
12	Manders	Building, Rds	
13	Courtside	Chemicals	
14	Grampian Hd	Electricity	
15	Sh Wales	Electricity	
16	Low & Bonar	Industrial	
17	Sukia	Foodstuffs	
18	Seaboard	Electricity	
19	Halma	Industrial	
20	Mitrogen	Electricity	
21	BPB Ltd	Building, Rds	
22	Cadbury-Schw	Foods	
23	Bepack	Industrial	
24	PowerGen	Electricity	
25	Williams Hdg	Industrial	
26	Hydro-Elec	Electricity	
27	Redland	Building, Rds	
28	Barnes Ltd	Building, Rds	
29	RMC Corp	Building, Rds	
30	Tobacco Har	Leisure	
31	Growth WFA	Drugs/Phar	
32	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
33	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
34	East Midlands	Electricity	
35	Orford Inc	Electricity	
36	Walesley	Industrial	
37	Com Union	Insurance	
38	Ocean Group	Transport	
39	Dates Newspapers Ltd	Total	

Please take into account any bonus shares

11,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have picked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game, then you can win a prize of £1,000. The prize is Mrs N. Hall, Torquay, Mrs B. Walpole, Norwich and Mr D. Ayers of Bristol.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
34	24.5	24.0	Abnny	24.5	2.0	10.0	12.0
35	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
36	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
37	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
38	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
39	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
40	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
41	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
42	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
43	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
44	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
45	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
46	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
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42	1.0	0.5	Adair	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0
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BUILDING, ROADS

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2	St Western	Electricity	
3	Travis Perkins	Building, Rds	
4	Stm Water	Water	
5	Mission Temp	Breweries	
6	Nonweb	Electricity	
7	Cook (Wm)	Industrial	
8	Hammerhead	Property	
9	Finlay (James)	Foods	
10	TSB	Banks/Dis	
11	Shed	Oil, Gas	
12	Manders	Building, Rds	
13	Courtside	Chemicals	
14	Grampian Hd	Electricity	
15	Sh Wales	Electricity	
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17	Sukia	Foodstuffs	
18	Seaboard	Electricity	
19	Halma	Industrial	
20	Mitrogen	Electricity	
21	BPB Ltd	Building, Rds	
22	Cadbury-Schw	Foods	
23	Bepack	Industrial	
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27	Redland	Building, Rds	
28	Barnes Ltd	Building, Rds	
29	RMC Corp	Building, Rds	
30	Tobacco Har	Leisure	
31	Growth WFA	Drugs/Phar	
32	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
33	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
34	East Midlands	Electricity	
35	Orford Inc	Electricity	
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BUILDING, ROADS



Sir Colin Marshall: each airport needs its own flights network

The big squeeze gives hope to the regions

Harvey Elliott looks at Britain's smaller airports and reports on talks with the United States that could boost their standing

Today, as British and American civil servants face each other in a new series of negotiations aimed at liberalising air services between Britain and the United States, executives of more than a dozen regional airports throughout Britain are waiting with bated breath for signs of an agreement.

Suddenly, after decades of apparent official indifference, they have been catapulted to the forefront of government policy. Airlines from the United States want to operate many more services to Britain in order to compete with British Airways, which, almost alone among big carriers, is still making a profit during the fiercest economic downturn ever to hit international aviation. They also

want to be able to fly to other countries from Britain — especially if British Airways is to be given the go-ahead to take a big stake in USAir.

Ideally, the Americans say, they want to fly to Heathrow and turn that already busy airport into the world's main international "hub", connecting long-haul flights from both East and West to the European short-haul network. The British government negotiators, however, want to develop the regions and have offered the Americans the chance of flying to any airport in Britain when they

want and to charge what fares they like.

Whether they take this option will be the clearest indication yet of the real strength of the arguments put forward by the regions that airline passengers are no longer prepared to put up with the inconvenience of travelling often hundreds of miles from their home to either Gatwick or Heathrow and that if only the leading international airlines can be persuaded to open up new services, the traffic will automatically follow.

The main airports are almost

full to bursting and logic suggests that the answer to the problem is to move services from the capital to the regions.

Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive of British Airways, recently emphasised that this does not, however, necessarily make commercial sense.

"I do not believe that you can serve the London market via Manchester or Birmingham or vice versa," he said. "Discrete networks have to be built for each airport."

Although the number of people travelling is likely to quadruple

between now and the year 2010, most of the additional passengers will be carried in much larger planes to the same airports as the airlines now use. BA reckons that by 2010, 4,000 aircraft, each with 350 seats or more, will be in use, compared with just 800 of that size now in use.

This may still not be enough to cope with the additional demand for flights, especially as governments throughout Europe are apparently determined to ignore any pleas for new airport development. Should it become genuinely impossible to fit any more take-offs and landings into Heathrow or Gatwick, and should passenger demand concentrate on local airports, the regions could come into their own.

In recent years many regional airports — Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds/Bradford and Cardiff, for example — have spent millions of pounds improving their services, developing new terminals and pushing their case around the world (Harvey Elliott writes).

Many airports are still owned by local authorities principally because having a thriving air transport industry on their doorstep is an attraction for business enterprises and benefits the local community. They not only meet the needs of business and tourism, create jobs and generate wealth but put cities firmly on the international map.

The location of airports also helps industry to exploit both national and international markets. In addition, regional airports help to counteract the tendency towards centralisation and to spread economic development into the regions and away from the capital.

Glasgow airport, for example, provides 4,000 jobs directly but a further 2,500 jobs are attracted to the area simply by the airport being where it is.

Over the past few years the trend towards developing regional air links has speeded up. It began with Glasgow Prestwick, then Manchester and is now

A timetable for take-off

concentrating on Birmingham where British Airways has recently announced its first daily scheduled transatlantic service which is due to begin next March.

Already American and United, two of the biggest airlines in the United States, have expressed an interest in flying the route in competition with BA because, they say, up to one million journeys a year originate from the Birmingham area and yet passengers are now almost all having to go to Heathrow or Gatwick.

Birmingham airport employs 700 people directly and many more in related industries in the region and is calculated to contribute £35 million a year to the local economy.

Almost 60 per cent of all flights from

Birmingham are business and scheduled traffic, the remainder holiday charter flights. Birmingham has 15 scheduled airlines flying directly to 35 destinations with a further 16 charter airlines and more than 100 tour operators offering services to 45 holiday destinations.

Birmingham spent £60 million on a new terminal called Eurohub in an attempt to become a central point into which passengers from around the world are fed and then transferred on to other flights. This has given the airport an annual passenger capacity of almost seven million and between January and September this year it handled 3,043,203 customers — an increase of 13.9 per cent over the same period in 1991.



International check-in: the Eurohub centre at Birmingham airport

In Cardiff the gradual development of the airport has now provided the whole of Wales and the South-West with a genuine international airport capable of handling all sectors of the air travel industry well into the next century.

The East Midlands International airport at Castle Donington — owned by four local authority shareholders — has achieved an annual growth rate of around 11 per cent since it opened 28 years ago. Now it is feared that it will have reached

its capacity within the next five years and is seeking government approval to extend the runway, build new facilities and create jobs in an area badly affected by the planned closure of coal mines.

During the past three recessionary years, passenger numbers at East Midlands have fallen to about 1.16 million a year, but studies show that the airport would need extra capacity to handle seven million passengers by the year 2005. The airport made profits of £2.5 million last year which, given an 8 per cent fall in passenger numbers, was greeted with some relief by the local authorities.

With Manchester continuing its remarkable growth over the past decade, thanks largely to its aggressive marketing: a third airline — Condé Nast of Germany — commencing jet services from London City Airport; Luton about to begin a £40 million development programme and pressing hard for the Luton Interchange, incorporating road, rail and air services; and a new short take-off and landing airport planned near Sheffield, the prospects are looking good for regional airports well into the next century.

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Local links are a growth area for British Airways and KLM

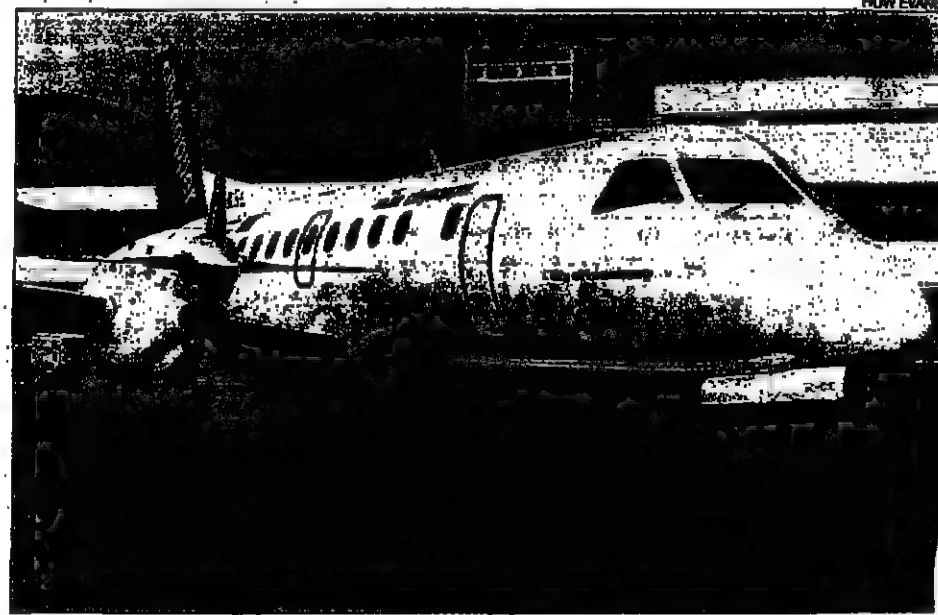
Already airlines are starting to realise the potential of regional airports and British Airways has set up a special regional business unit to capitalise on its ability to link directly to the regions from airports throughout the country at a cost that should enable fares to be kept down (Harvey Elliott writes). KLM also appreciates the possibilities of capitalising on the strength of its UK regional airports by introducing a new timetable that increases the flight connections available via Amsterdam's Schiphol.

The airline flies three times a day to Amsterdam from Southampton, Cardiff and Birmingham. Partner airlines, such as Air UK, provide links to Schiphol from other UK and Ireland points.

Air UK, in which KLM has a 14.9 per cent stake, is working closely with the Dutch carrier to offer passengers maximum connection opportunities and improving its connections from Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Teesside.

Barry Evans, KLM's marketing manager, said: "Business travellers increasingly want the convenience of being able to fly from their local airport. Using regional airports offers them many advantages — easier access, time saved on getting to the airport and cheaper parking."

There is little doubt that the potential is there, at least in theory, for quick and successful growth. The government wants local authority airports



A Cityhopper at Cardiff airport: KLM is increasing its connections via Amsterdam

to be privatised but only two — Liverpool and Luton — have so far attempted it and with only partial success.

Michael Watts, a solicitor for Rowe and Maw, aviation legal specialists, believes that airport owners should now consider the potential benefits that privatisation can offer.

Already airports with a turnover of more than £1 million a year are bound to form companies for the purpose of carrying on the business of operating an airport as a commercial undertaking, affecting all but the smallest regional airports.

Mr Watts says that since most airports are making profits, the potential for a successful privatisation exists. "Interest has been aroused from investment and other groups," he adds. "They rightly perceive the industry overall as one of virtually unlimited growth in

demand and essentially monopolistic in character, and within which many assets have yet to be fully exploited."

"The timetable may be crowded over the next few years and airport owners would perhaps be wise to consider the issues now."

Twenty-five of Britain's largest regional airports — all members of the Joint Airports

Committee of Local Authorities — are already well aware of the potential, and the problems, that lie in the future.

Now they are determined to ensure that regional airports fulfill that potential, avoid the problems and convince passengers that it makes sense to fly from near home rather than fly through the traffic to over-crowded Heathrow.

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THEATRE page 30

Franco Zeffirelli has brought his own version of a Pirandello classic to the National Theatre

ARTS

FILM page 31

As America voted, Ben Kingsley was being sworn in as President — but only on screen



After 2,500 years, Greece's greatest glory is being restored. Marcus Binney reports on the solving of a mystery with 13,700 clues

Piecing together the Parthenon

Ruskin would have fumed. The Acropolis is being restored. Temples bristle with scaffolding. The Propylaea is a mesh of steel poles and wooden planks. Inside the Parthenon — the most celebrated Doric temple of ancient Greece — a vast crane revolves menacingly on a concrete platform. Outside a gantry hoist glides along special rails.

Yet, contrary to appearances, this is not a wholesale renewal in the spirit of Viollet-le-Duc or Gilbert Scott. It does not involve systematic replacement of eroded stonework or conjectural restoration of missing features. Rather it is the world's most amazing 3-D jigsaw puzzle.

The architectural jewels of the Acropolis will be put back together, piece by piece, using fragments still extant after more than two thousand years.

Even today the vast rock of the Acropolis has only one entrance, through the portico of the Propylaea where the columns stand three deep and more. Once through the entrance, the beautifully proportioned silhouette is immediately visible ahead, and below it, on the left, the Erechtheion Temple with its famous Caryatid porch.

Manolis Korres, the Greek architect leading the work, has calculated that the Parthenon of Pericles consisted of 13,700 pieces. "Even after the plundering, shelling and restorations of the past, there are on the ground about 700 large fragments of the Parthenon, and many thousands of smaller pieces."

The abiding fascination of the Parthenon is that it was more beautifully made, and was fitted together with greater precision,

than any human structure before or since. Not a teaspoonful of mortar or cement was used. Many joints are estimated to be less than 1/100th of a millimetre wide. "Not a breath of air could pass between the solid blocks of masonry," Korres says.

The drums of the columns were calibrated, like the parts of a modern jet engine, to achieve a perfect fit. Korres has found the drums were honed against matching pairs of stone plates, so that each stone exactly complemented

'Not a breath of air could pass between the solid blocks of masonry'

those above and below. "We have found 15 fragments of 13 different plates," he says.

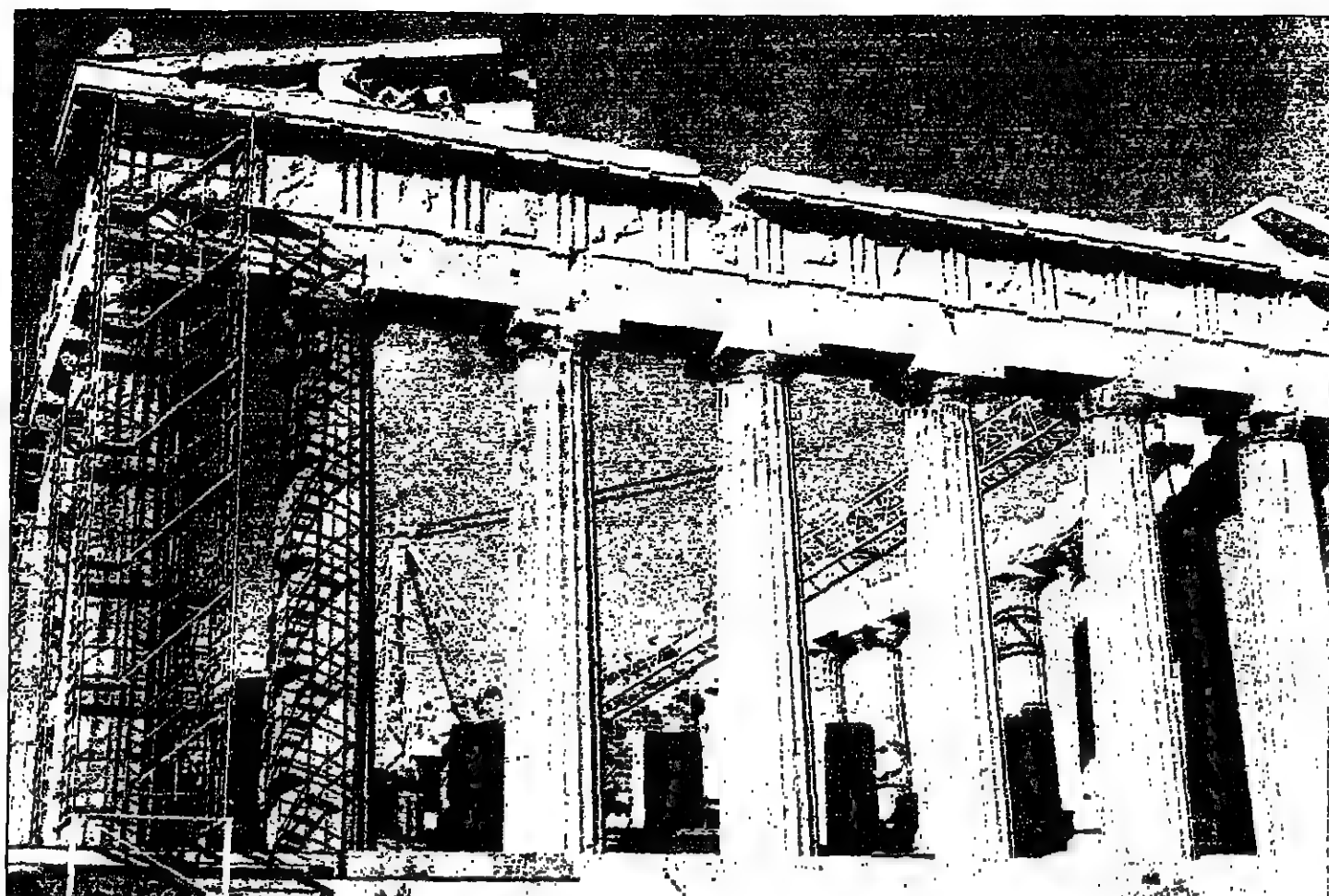
Korres brings the Parthenon alive by his total involvement in every aspect of its history. He is a prolific, yet highly precise draughtsman. One of his most intriguing drawings, done for an exhibition now in Berlin, shows the Parthenon in 1687, four seconds after a Venetian cannonball hit the Turkish arsenal inside. "It was a six-second explosion," he says, and shows precisely how cornices flew, columns trembled and tumbled, and walls collapsed.

Dr Peter Kaligas, director of the Acropolis, describes the clues which have enabled architects and archaeologists to ascertain the original position of fallen stones with such exactness. "First, the pattern of wind erosion on the two sides is very different. Secondly, each stone was eased into position with levers, making slight marks on the lower edge."

Above all it is the position of the channels made for the iron cramps which joined the stones that provides the vital evidence. "There are big deviations in the exact position of the cramps from stone to stone, as a result of the search for the best position in the veins of the marble," Korres says. While working on the Erechtheion, Korres could immediately tell a stone had been misplaced during the course of an earlier restoration, because the cramp channels did not line up.

It is well known that the base, or stylobate, of the Parthenon was gently curved to counteract the natural distortions of the eye. Korres has calculated that similar differences applied to the walls.

"We can measure these curvatures, using instruments which can pick up a difference of one-tenth of a millimetre," he says. "Also the corners of the stones are not quite at 90 degrees, but a little acute. Using all these measurements and observations we can assemble plentiful criteria for the positioning of each block." Korres points out how the fluting of various Doric columns is not exactly in line. "Individual stones have shifted sideways or rotated. This is the result of earthquakes, including a big one in 1981. From this we have learnt



The world's most amazing 3-D jigsaw puzzle: modern technology is brought to bear on reconstructing Athens' ancient wonder

that the Parthenon is a valuable and reliable seismic archive."

While the west end of the Parthenon, nearer the entrance, is the more complete, retaining both inner and outer columns, it was very badly pined by Venetian shelling. For sheer quality of stonework, the east end, which was the original main entrance, is superior. Having completed conservation work on the outer columns Korres is turning to the reconstruction of the missing inner row.

The philosophy so far, says Kaligas, has been "to put back the

maximum ancient masonry possible, at the same time adding the least possible new material". So, for example, there will be no new roof or walls to destroy the lines of the familiar ruin. Such reconstruction is not new. A large part of the north colonnade was reconstructed from fallen masonry in the 1920s.

The Parthenon's interior was always thought to have been dark. It only when the doors were open. Korres has shown there was a large window on either side of each doorway, set high up under the cornice. He has also found that in

front of the Parthenon stood a large pedestal for a statue built in Hellenistic times for the kings of Pergamum.

The fruits of this research are displayed in the Centre for Acropolis Studies, just opposite the remains of the theatre of Dionysus. Here there is a set of models illustrating the Acropolis through history, showing how Pericles built a massive artificial platform to increase the size of the top of the rock, as well as showing the Parthenon's later incarnations as a Byzantine church and a mosque.

Other models and drawings show the different ways stones were hauled and hoisted, often with sophisticated wooden cranes. Each stone had spurs or grooves around which ropes could be tied, or hollows into which clamps could be set. There is also a display of painted terra cotta roof tiles and roof ornaments giving a vivid indication of the colourfulness of the various temples in ancient times. Within a few years the Greeks have brought the Acropolis alive in a way that a century of classics textbooks never came near to doing.

Of profits and human loss

Seventy years after Eric Gill's war memorial was unveiled, its theme can still shock

Even the most bizarre and sexually deviant aspects of Eric Gill's troubled life have, in recent years, been exposed with disquieting clarity. But now the focus shifts back to his art, with today's opening, at the Barbican Art Gallery, of a first-ever retrospective surveying his achievement as a sculptor.

Most of his finest carvings have been brought together at the Barbican. But the extraordinary *tour de force* that is arguably Gill's masterpiece proved too bulky to travel from his home at Leeds University. So any serious appreciation of his art requires a visit to Leeds to see this titanic stone relief.

Commissioned as a memorial to the first world war by Michael Sadler, the university vice-chancellor, the sculpture tackles the surprising subject of *Our Lord Driving the Moneychangers out of the Temple*. This strange idea occurred to Gill as early as 1919, when he proposed a design for a large bronze memorial to the London County Council's dead employees. While sitting for his portrait, and trying to decide between thinking about women (in some detail) and thinking what I could do for the LCC monument, Gill suddenly realised "that the act of Jesus in turning out the buyers and sellers from the Temple was really a most outrageous act and very unlike". Not surprisingly, the proposal was turned down.

Gill felt angry about the wealth amassed by the war profiteers. But he also believed that the moneychangers story



Prince of peace: Gill's *Our Lord Driving the Moneychangers out of the Temple* still hangs at Leeds University

justified the British decision to take up arms against Germany. "Thus, for all time," he wrote of Christ's precipitate action, "the use of violence in a just cause is made lawful."

Alarmingly, Gill went on to argue that houses of God required purging in the 20th century just as urgently as in Christ's day. When he heard about the damage inflicted on Rheims Cathedral by the German advance, he angrily insisted on the "need to construct a whip of thongs wherewith to drive the money-changers out of the Temple of England. God has found a whip of German guns wherewith to deprive the money-changers of the temples of France."

Gill's attitude would hardly have commended him to a patron capable of commissioning the memorial he wanted to produce. All the same, Sadler became interested in the proposal. Before the war he had been Kandinsky's first supporter in Britain, and Sadler's audacity resurfaced when he considered Gill's scheme.

Having recently received a £1,000 legacy from a Yorkshire woman to be used for Leeds University's benefit, Sadler decided to spend it on Gill's memorial. He did not even waver when the sculptor gleefully announced that, "I'm thinking of making it a pretty straight thing: modern dress as much as possible. Leeds manufacturers, their wives and servants, don't you see."

Both Gill and his patron must have guessed that the money-changers image would cause deep offence, especially among local businessmen who had suffered the loss of sons during the war and expected a far more decorous, dignified monument. But Gill was bent on assuming Christ's purifying role when he carried out this "revolutionary job", and

with its teeth. The hound initiates the movement which runs through the entire frieze, and the curve of its tail is echoed by the seven cords swinging from the whip in symbolic recognition of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Christ flings back this scourge to aim it at the targets of his scorn, and his draped figure shows clear evidence of

of salaciousness near the end of the relief, where the pawnbroker carries the balls symbolic of his profession. Gill shyly makes sure that only two of them are visible, and allows the "fashionable woman" to grasp one of the poles supporting the balls. The gesture is surreptitious: her hand slides out behind her dress, and might easily be mistaken for the pawnbroker's. Once seen, though, her fingers imply that she is just as stealthy in pursuing her own interests as her male companions. She holds up her vanity bag with a possessive zeal reminiscent of the nearby clerk, who hugs the ledger with "LSD" inscribed on the cover.

When the memorial was installed on an outside wall near the university library in 1923, it provoked fierce controversy. The *Yorkshire Post* even attempted to "cancel or delay" the dedication ceremony, and a defiant Gill fanned the scandal by publishing a highly contentious pamphlet about the carving's political aims. It confirmed, to the disgust and fury of his detractors in a town renowned as a financial centre, that he was obsessed by modern war's relationship with the generation and accumulation of capital.

RICHARD CORK

The Eric Gill show continues at the Barbican Art Gallery (071-638 4141) until February 7.

King conk, King creepy

STAR casting has been announced for the West End's two big literary adaptations of the winter. John Wells's new version of Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which opens at the Theatre Royal Haymarket on December 14, will have Robert Lindsay (still basking in the glow of mass recognition brought by *GBH*, Alan Bleasdale's television drama) playing the proverbially challenged hero.

Three days later, at the Criterion Theatre, Sharon Gless — the blonde half of *Cagney and Lacey* — makes her West End debut playing the role of Annie Wilkes in Simon Moore's new stage adaptation of Stephen King's best-selling thriller, *Misery*. The leads in both plays will need to work hard to compete with notable film portrayals that are still fresh in the mind. Lindsay will have to erase memories of Gérard Depardieu's *Cyrano* on screen last year. For Gless, the challenge will be emulating the chilling portrayal which won Kathy Bates an Oscar for best actress last year.

Meanwhile, Bleasdale's first major drama since *GBH* will be premiered at Nottingham Playhouse in February. It is a black comedy called *On the Edge*: a title which is both literal and metaphorical. Set on the window ledges and roof of a tower block, it is said to be "a portrayal of a city going to hell". *On the Edge* will be a co-production with the National Theatre where it will end up in April, after a brief British tour.

THE bicentenary celebrations of Robert Adam, Scotland's most famous architect, reach a climax on Friday evening in Edinburgh. A new monument, built to one of Adam's own designs, will be unveiled in Greyfriars Church, followed by a concert of music from Adam's period. The monument, instigated by the Royal Incorporation of Architects, is the first memorial to Adam in Scotland; he is buried in Westminster Abbey.

State of the arts

NOBODY ever accused the Germans of not taking drama seriously. In Hanover, they have just spent DM63 million (£20 million) on a new State Theatre. It will begin putting on performances at the end of this month, and the choice is as heavyweight as one might expect: Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* on November 28 and Wedekind's *Lulu* the following night.

ARTS BRIEFING

Last chance...

"TEARS of a Clown": "You've Really Got a Hold On Me", "Tracks of My Tears", "I Second That Emotion": here are songs that are truly the stuff of Motown legend. So too is the man who co-wrote and first

sang them. Smokey Robinson. Now 52 and nearing the end of his first UK tour for more than ten years, Robinson's feather-toned tenor remains intact. Although his 90-minute show could be better-paced, it could hardly be more laden with his guaranteed to produce a flood of golden memories. Final dates are at De Montford Hall, Leicester (0533 544444) tonight; Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851) tomorrow; and Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man (0624 628855) on Saturday.

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

By Bob Carlton

1990'S OLIVER AWARD WINNER
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OUT OF THIS WORLD TOUR 1993:

FEBRUARY	18-27	PLYMOUTH Theatre Royal	0752 267212
MARCH	1-6	BRISTOL Hippodrome	0271 295441
	8-13	BRADFORD Alhambra	0274 752000
	15-20	BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre	02537 28377
	22-27	SHEFFIELD Green Theatre	0424 769922
	29-3	WOLVERHAMPTON Theatre Royal	0902 24454
APRIL	5-10	CARDIFF New Theatre	0222 39411
	12-17	SOUTHAMPTON Theatre Royal	0703 229777
	19-24	WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre	0902 24454
	26-1	OXFORD Alhambra Theatre	0865 24454
MAY	3-8	WORKING New Victoria	0483 761144
	10-22	MANCHESTER Opera House	061 236 9917
	24-29	NOTTINGHAM Theatre Royal	0602 432626
	31-5	BELFAST Opera House	0232 247919
JUNE	7-12	EDINBURGH King's Theatre	031 229 1207

FURTHER DATES ANNOUNCING SHORTLY

SHIRLEY BASSEY
at 12th December
at 10.15pm
Premier
071-240 0771
LATE 10pm

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a bold revival of Pirandello's masterpiece

Unnatural acts of axemanship

Sei Personaggi in Cerca d'Autore
Lyttelton

FOR the redoubtable Franco Zeffirelli, Italian revivals of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, the most frequently performed of Pirandello's plays, tend to be dreary, predictable affairs, badly in need of a director prepared, as he puts it in the programme, to "cut away the dead wood". Certainly, his own creative axemanship is apparent from the very start of the production he has brought (with sponsorship from Olivetti) from Rome to the National. Up go the lights, not on a stage being readied for a drawing-room comedy of the 1920s, but on one which looks more likely to house *Mits Saigon* or *Robert Lepage's* touring version of *2001, A Space Odyssey*.

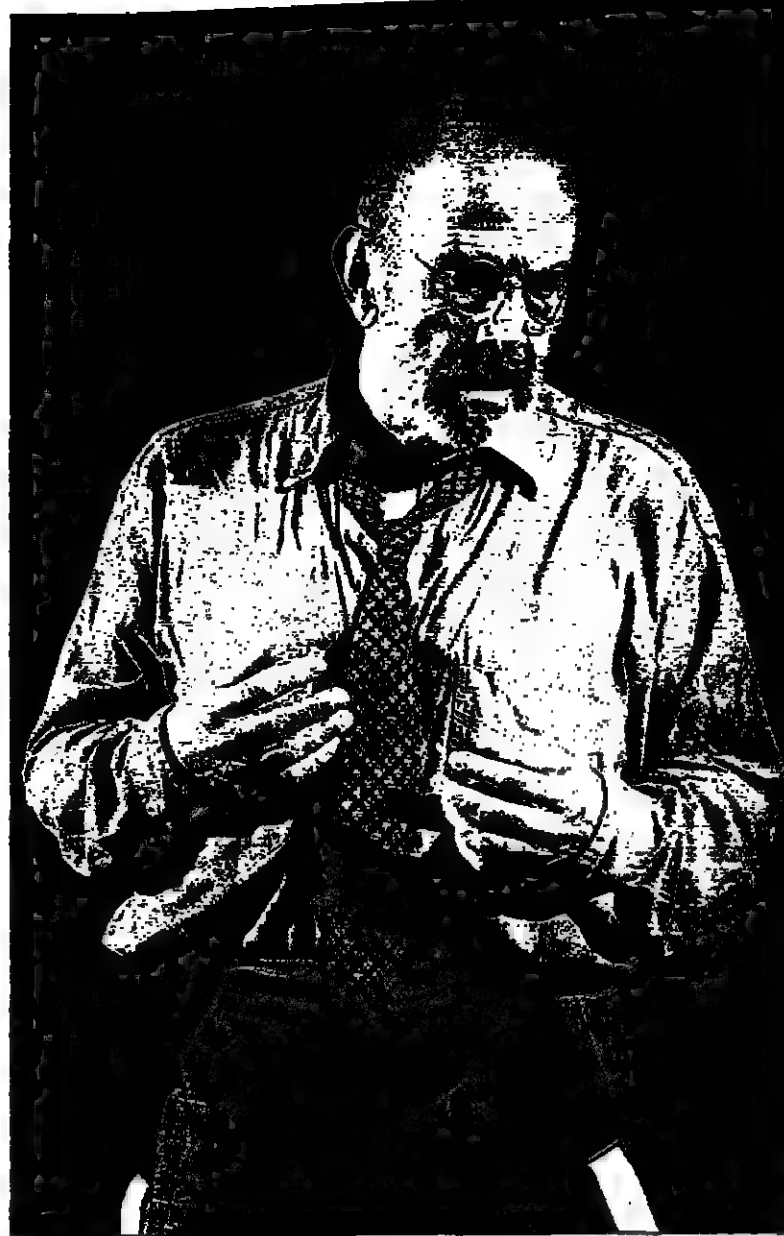
So it turns out, too. Actors and stage-staff wander in T-shirts and denim, beneath steel scaffolding, shouting, bickering and posing for a team from the local equivalent of Channel 4. The play they begin to rehearse is not the one specified in Pirandello's script: his own naturalistic *Rules of the Game*. Instead, they launch into what appears to be a deconstructionist version of his unfinished *The Mountain Giants*. What the six characters interrupt is a gaudy mix of figures flaunting gold-painted and rubber breasts, throbbing lights, and weird, spectral cries of "om".

I am not at all sure this is a good idea. The people invading the rehearsal are supposed to be characters abandoned by their author. They have come to the playhouse in the hope that their actors will bring life to the dark and terrible story that he did not complete, and the actors prove comically inadequate when they try to do so. Pirandello's point was that, in spite of its claims

to truthfulness, the naturalistic theatre tends to travesty and distort life. But the theatre Zeffirelli shows us seems to be dedicated to wider, more exotic aims than naturalism. Why, then, should the six characters or anybody else think it significant when the actors duly fail to be real?

There turn out to be other oddities as the evening proceeds. And yet Zeffirelli's revisionism has fundamentally achieved what he hoped. The stage bubbles with energy throughout. I even found myself believing in the tall tales that the six characters ask the actors to perform. Is it possible to base earnest conclusions about the nature of illusion and reality on the melodramatic events acted out, as Pirandello does? Well, yes, somehow it is.

Paradoxically, that is thanks to a cast that, sometimes, seems miscast. Benedetta Buccalato looks too old and experienced to play the Stepmother; yet she proves able to flinch and virginally shrink as well as rage, moan and sound brassy. But there can be no quibbles about either Barbara Valmorin, a crumpled, bewildered Mother, or Enrico Maria Salerno, whose Father can move from solemnity to shiftness, humour to desolation, in a twinkling. He is a much more emotionally complete figure than the gravely embarrassed oldsters I have seen in English revivals of *Six Characters*, a justification in itself of Zeffirelli's revival.



Enrico Maria Salerno: from humour to desolation in a twinkling

DANCE: Nadine Meisner finds minimalist pleasures at Dance Umbrella

Robots have feelings too

Keersmaekers' company, Rosas, as a result, Rosas's four female dancers appear as more than the dance equivalent of minimalist music.

A hand raised to the chin, an arm sliding sharply across, a torso slumping forward: such gestures build into elaborate phrases that are exhaustively reiterated and then shift into something else. Swinging hair, a brief smile, the clasp of a body, a hissing exhalation of breath, all these equally become a part of a choreography which matches the sections of percussive music by Thierry de Mey and Peter Vermeersch.

But Keersmaekers goes much further than the movement, the mere notes. She applies her repeated patterns to the piece's structure, to the positioning and progress of the dancers about the stage, to their movements in unison or

counterpoint. She sets up a tension between the notions of abstraction and expression. The dancers, in their fragmented assemblage and repeated movements, behave like machines; yet we seem to be encouraged to give their actions an emotional colouring, to see the touching of a breast as sensual or the gripping of a stomach as pain. More than that, she herself at times clearly invests the choreography with expression, demonstrating how one set of activity can look either anguished or flirtatious, depending on the dancer.

At almost two hours long without a break, the piece offers a devastating display of stamina. But the dancers also impress by their finesse, varying the speed of movements, starting a swerve sharply, for example, then

finishing it with leisurely creaminess. By contrast, Anderson's choreography makes her all-female Cholmondeleys look like non-dancers. The robotic simplicity (raise hand, step to the right, step to the left...) seems closer to keep-fit exercises. And when Keersmaekers has since expanded her range, Anderson seems stuck in a rut. To bring an extra dimension to *Walky Talky* (touring Britain through November), Anderson has enlisted Anne Rabbit (who with Anderson also appears as one of the cast) has produced a text of dreamlike anecdotes and dialogues, in keeping with the action which takes place on or around a huge bed. The dancers speak the words; their jokes are mildly amusing. Drostian Madden's score has more variety than usual; Sandy Powell's costumes, as always, look beautifully but and luxurious. But the piece scarcely lives up to its claim of developing characters. Even so, the Cholmondeleys have a loyal band of followers who instead of unattractive superficially detect breezy freshness and lack of pretension.

STEPHEN PETTIT

LONDON

THEOREMA Giorgio Bassotti's provocative "opera without singers" (the only vocal sounds are electronically reproduced) is based on a novel (and the 1993 film) by Pier Paolo Pasolini. Staged by producer Lucy Bailey (whose work is always worth seeing), the piece has already been performed in some 40 cities. At the Maggiori Musicale in Florence and at Hans Werner Henrich's Munich Festival. Tickets £10-£15. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-938 8800), 7.45pm.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Northern Ballet Theatre presents the London premiere of its production of Charles Dickens's Christmas tale. Director Christopher Gable describes it as more of a Christmas entertainment than a ballet, not surprising since the dancers have to sing as well as dance. The company is debuting in London season to the memory of the late Kenneth MacMillan who died last month. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-446 5000) Tonight, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 2.30pm.

BORDER CROSSINGS/ERIC GILL: Flagship of the ambitious festival of Scandinavian arts, "Tender of the North", "Border Crossings" shows 14 Nordic artists from Munich and Stockholm through John and Kjersti down to Hilda Helten. There are also 11 other festival shows scattered round the Barbican Centre, three at the Design Museum, and several elsewhere. The first-ever retrospective attributed to the giant of 20th-century British sculpture, ranges from the early works

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Keri Knight

of 1910 to his death in 1940 (see below, page 29). Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, 10am-5.45pm.

STEVE SMITH AND VITAL INFORMATION: The versatile drummer is joined by keyboard player Tom Cooper of Santana, guitarist Frank Catalano of Core's Electric Band, and bass-player Jeff Andrews, sideman to Michael Brecker. An evening of jazz virtuosity can be expected. Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-284 4358), 7pm.

NOTTINGHAM: As part of the European Arts Festival the City of Nottingham Symphony Orchestra performs two symphonies by the Danish composer Carl Nielsen. The programme combines the first and third ("Espresso") symphonies. The Leader and Assistant Conductors complete the programme. Clif Bar (Baroque) and Scholastic Longhouse (opera) are the soloists. Simon Rattle conducts. Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square (0532 492528), 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

■ MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gault play crime writers who fall out and pit their wits against each other over run-of-the-mill murder mysteries. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-496 1111) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ NO MAN'S LAND: Spilling guts and President with Harold Pinter and Paul Eddington as the two warring combatants. Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 (071-496 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ RADIO THEATRE: Tony Blair in a fun run down Memory Lane, set in a vegetable-growing house, burning with sprightly Noel Gay numbers. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-496 5887) Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ IT RAINS IN THE FAMILY: Lark in the hospital common room, mother outraged, doctors humiliated. Ray Cooney lives with his of his family. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-496 4401) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ JUNE MOORE: Nelly's unwelcome comedy by P.G. Wodehouse and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lusher. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-496 5887) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ KIDS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It concerns the values of Marlene Pugh a novel by Chinua Achebe. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-496 5887) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ MAKING IT BETTER: Lark in the hospital common room, mother outraged, doctors humiliated. Ray Cooney lives with his of his family. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-496 4401) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS: (12) Romance and adventure in the American colonies with Jonathan Demme Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel, director Michael Mann. Camden Palace (071-267 7034) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ FLAMINGO BARK: Low-budget, futuristic lesbian adventure from Australian film-makers Anne Henschel, Denise Scrymgeour and Ursula Plummer. Boleyn (071-276 0051) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE CRYING GAME: (18) PA. Fantasy becomes obsession with a boy's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that follows the close Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, and David, Miranda Richardson. Camden Palace (071-267 7034) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ GLENNYARD GLEN ROSS: (18) Real-estate salesman fight for their lives. Energetic young David Morris's play, though Jack Lammont goes over the top. Co-starring Al Pacino, Ed Harris, director, James Foley. Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

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women confined in a house where a hundred years ago, a Victorian wife was banished for loving too passionately. Birmingham Rep. Theatre, Corporation Square (021-556 4455) Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens tomorrow, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

FARINELLI: The fine bluesman Honeyboy Edwards is among the last authentic performers of the Delta blues. He has played alongside such notables as Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf. The Pig, Ridgeway Theatre, Enghave (0202 713001), 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Raymond Lppard conducts the Hallé Orchestra in three concertos the week featuring the distinguished pianist Pascal Rogé performing Saint-Saëns's Second Piano Concerto. The remaining programme comprises Grieg's Suite No. 1 from Peer Gynt, Tchaikovsky's Serenade in C for Strings and Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C major (more concerts tomorrow and Sun).

NOTTINGHAM: As part of the European Arts Festival the City of Nottingham Symphony Orchestra performs two symphonies by the Danish composer Carl Nielsen. The programme combines the first and third ("Espresso") symphonies. The Leader and Assistant Conductors complete the programme. Clif Bar (Baroque) and Scholastic Longhouse (opera) are the soloists. Simon Rattle conducts. Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square (0532 492528), 7.30pm.

black American play. Willy back stage barter and cleverly delivered message. Theatre, 288 Tottenham High Road, NW6 (071-326 1000) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: A romantic comedy, both comic and romantic, delightfully acted - not least by a reprobated mite. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE WESTFORD TRILOGY: A revival of Billy Roche's celebrated chronicle of small-town life. The West, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-496 1111) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ WHICH WITCH: Norwegian opera-musical on the murky depths in Renaissance Europe. Not reviewed by me. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-496 4401) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ LONG TALKERS: (18) David Hare's play about a group of men who talk and talk and talk. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: (18) A series of plays and poems. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICES: A series of plays and poems. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ THE DEEPER OF SEPARATION: A series of plays and poems. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

■ SOLARIS: A series of plays and poems. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-438 4141) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

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■ STRICTLY BALLROOM: (PG) One couple's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dance Federation. Excellent, interesting debut by director Bob Lushman. With Paul Hester, Toni Morris. MGM Grosvenor (071-267 7034) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

THIS concert opened with what is surely one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever composed, William Byrd's *Lustorum animae*, a work of formidable intensity achieved through apparently the simplest, most spacious means.

Then, after the denser *Quemodo cantabimus* by the same composer - a touch garbled in this performance - came an earlier work. John Sheppard's second setting of the respond *In manus tuas* did a similar job just as impressively and in just as individual a style. Such works as these eloquently speak of the privations, desperation and enduring strength of faith which composers labouring in the turbulent times of the Reformation must have felt.

Melting though the sounds of these works were, they were trumped by

CONCERT: Sacred music from Byrd to Messiaen
When hearing is believing

Thomas Tallis's respond *Videte miraculum*, composed either late in Henry VIII's reign or under the rule of Mary I, which is a piece standing at the summit of even this great composer's achievements. Tallis's text, and the ceremonial form he uses - an alternation of progressively shortened polyphonic settings and plainsong verses - are both highly functional. He weaves his counterpoint around a tenor line - the original plainsong - in long, equal

notes, in the accepted unifying manner of the day. Yet this is a music of immense expressive freedom. It can speak to anyone, believer or not, because like all great art, it has something to say about the general condition of humanity, over and above its specific religious purpose. The piece tested the voices of The Sixteen more harshly than what had gone before, and minor shortcomings were revealed. But the conductor, Harry

Christopher, immersed himself thoroughly in the spirit of this music while maintaining an admirable lucidity. The result, far from being costly cloistered in the rarefied world of the cathedral close, at once combined the meditative with the passionate.

From 16th-century England we travelled to 20th-century France. Poulenc's sacred music, despite its sincerity and harmonic richness, can seem somewhat fractured, so it was no surprise that neither a *Salve Regina* setting nor the *Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence* had the effect of what had gone before. Messiaen's gorgeous *O sacrum convivium* is another matter, however, and Christopher restored to the choir all the poise and control he had engineered earlier.

STEPHEN PETTIT

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS

GRAND MAYFAIR Cinema 85, 071 496 8800. Excellent production in "The Last of the Mohicans". Directed by Michael Mann. (12) Romance and adventure in the American colonies with Jonathan Demme Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel, director Michael Mann. Camden Palace (071-267 7034) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

MGM Grosvenor 071-267 7034. "The Crying Game". (18) PA. Fantasy becomes obsession with a boy's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that follows the close Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, and David, Miranda Richardson. Camden Palace (071-267 7034) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

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MGM Grosvenor 071-267 7034. "The Crying Game". (

ROCK: David Sinclair is charmed, if not wholly convinced, by the British debut of a vocal group that has already conquered America

A lot of heart, but not much soul

The moment of truth at Hammer-smith Odeon came about halfway through this broadly engaging British debut by the vocal group that has taken America by storm. En Vogue. The four young women, dressed in leopardskin corsets and spangly hosiery, gathered in a huddle and laid into a tightly-scripted harmony version of "Yesterday". Before long the untypically syrupy arrangement gave way to a rapid-fire medley of soul classics: Aretha Franklin's arrangement of "Respect", Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine", Labelle's "Lady Marmalade" and others.

As the self-styled "funky divas" scythed through these great songs — their movements lithe and energetic, their rapidly alternating lead and harmony vocals as bright and shiny as a diamond — there was only one thing missing. Soul.

Indeed, comparing En Vogue to the greats of soul is like comparing the

Monkees to the Beatles. Rather like the Monkees, En Vogue started out as the product of someone else's imagination: namely the songwriting and production team of Thomas McElroy and Denzil Foster from Oakland, California. In 1988 the pair held auditions for a female group to work on an album which they were making. Cindy, Terry, Maxine and Dawn were the successful applicants.

It was not hard to see why. From the moment they shimmered on stage, wiggling their pert bottoms and swishing their fake ocelot coats over their shoulders, it was clear that these women had more to offer than mere singing ability alone.

There was sound advice from Terry on what to do if your man threatens to walk out (say you're sorry, cook him a meal and



En Vogue: vivacious appeal and a genuine talent for entertaining

lay him down on the couch to reconsider his position, apparently). There was a natty tap-dancing interlude from Cindy, together with one of the five male dancers who all performed their cameo roles magnificently throughout. And there were fetchingly lurid costumes all round, notably the silver, baby-doll dresses which they wore to memorable effect while standing on a platform over a gusting fan at the end.

The backing band, ranged on two levels to either side of a central row of steps, produced a suitably bass-heavy dance club sound while negotiating the varied styles and moods of the repertoire with calm authority. In front the four principals worked with unremitting vigour, shoring up each other's performances, and baning

melody and harmony lines to and fro in songs which shifted from the beatbox funk of "Hip Hop Lover" to the heavy rock of "Free Your Mind".

There was a humorously gauche quality to the performance and the show's distinctly unreconstructed tone was reinforced by lots of girlish banter. During the suggestive smooch of "Give Him Something He Can Feel" a cheerfully gormless lad was hauled from the audience and courted by all four women. He looked a bit shell-shocked by the time they led him off into the wings.

Having maintained a healthy impetus throughout, they finished with two of their biggest hits, "Hold On" and "My Lovin' (You're Never Gonna Get It)". It was a show which made up in colour, pizzazz and sheer effort for whatever it lacked in style, but despite an impressive ovation the women declined to take an encore. The strong impression of a band with vivacious appeal and a genuine talent for entertaining remained.

The exile who plans to sneak back

FILM: Energised by his years in Hollywood, Ben Kingsley may return to Europe as a director. Interview by David Robinson

Ben Kingsley, currently filming in Washington, becomes quite emotional at the thought of exile from Britain. "I don't want to be exiled from the greatest language in the world. I don't want to be exiled from opportunities to do screenplays by Harold Pinter. The only real way in the world to speak and celebrate the English language, with its ironies and its culture, is to work in Britain. I don't want to be an exile, yet sadly it seems to me the way things are going just now."

Gandhi made him an international star in 1982, but by the end of the decade Kingsley's career in Britain had come to seem more and more rudderless. "In 1989 particularly I had a very unrewarding year in terms of the quality of work I was given. There were three pretty dodgy and disappointing experiences in a row — films I had sincerely hoped would work out, but didn't. It wouldn't be kind of me to name names."

In less than 18 months in Hollywood, on the contrary, he has landed a succession of four plum roles. For his chilly study of criminal power, as Meyer Lansky in Barry Levinson's *Bugsy*, he received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor.

In *Sneakers*, which opens this week in London, he plays a crazed computer genius who dreams of world domination, on the strength of recognising that "it's not about who's got the most bullets. It's about who controls the information". The second film written and directed by Phil Alden Robinson (the first was *Field of Dreams*), *Sneakers* is 20th-century Jules Verne — a comedy thriller which uses state-of-the-art technology as motive and background. Kingsley is part of an all-star ensemble. "The poster is remarkable — just a line-up of names in silver on white: Robert Redford, Dan Aykroyd, Sidney Poitier, River Phoenix..."

Since *Sneakers* he has filmed *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, the directorial debut of Steven Zaillian, a writer whose credits include *Patriot Games*. "Fischer doesn't actually figure in the film. My character is a teacher of chess, obsessed with the way that the great champion used to play. He is convinced that somewhere out there must be a new Bobby Fischer; and he thinks he has found him in the person of a little boy, whom he sets out to teach every move that Fischer made."

"The central dilemma of the film is what to do when you discover a child genius — how do you break it to the parents? Do you pursue the

training at the expense of his childhood? It is about the awful choice, whether you permit the child to disappear totally, or whether you are prepared to relinquish part of the greatness of the gift and say 'well you'll never be a champion'. The little boy is in real life an eight-year-old chess genius who also happens to be a rather good actor. It was a happy shoot."

The day that Bill Clinton was elected, Ben Kingsley was himself being sworn in as president of the United States, for a scene in Ivan Reitman's *Dave*. "To avoid confusion," says Kingsley with only a trace of irony, "the scene was shot in Richmond, Virginia, rather than in Washington where most of the film is being made."

"The film is about an ordinary little guy who happens to look just like the president, so the president

happening in America: directors are gathering their own creative groups, actors they like working with, the way Woody Allen has done for a long time. I have been very touched that both Steven Zaillian and Phil Robinson have told me, 'Every time I do a picture, I would like to send you the script and let you decide what part you would like to play'. That is pretty overwhelming. It certainly makes it easier to swallow the bitter pill of exile."

He is emphatic, though, that the exile is not permanent. As a prominent member of the European Film Society, the group of directors and actors who activate the annual European Film Awards, he is not entirely pessimistic about Britain. "One of the best bits of news I heard was that Michael Caine is back in Britain and injecting a lot of energy into the film business there."

"I hope in the near future to return to Europe to make my own first film as director — a project which I have been nursing for a few years now. Above all, America has been wonderful preparation for this. I have learnt far more in the time spent working here than I would have done in Europe, waiting for projects that were on/off/on/off, dates changing, compromises, the sort of disappointing experiences I had in Britain lately."

His European project is already taking practical shape. "We are setting up a European financial consortium with a little bit of additional money from America for distribution purposes. I hope to be directing the film within the next 12 months."

What of the story? "I was as moved as others were by the story of the student in Tiananmen Square who took it upon himself to stand in front of the tanks when it was his turn to say no. And I have found a true incident that happened in Hitler's Germany in 1943, about a young woman who in a sense made that same gesture. My script traces her life up to the moment where, metaphorically speaking, she stands in front of the tanks. I hope that in focusing on one young woman and her choices it will express something of the agony of Europe in this past century."

"Anyway, this is my beacon of hope, both for Europe and for my own career. I want to carry on expanding and learning and gaining confidence in America. Then I want to return to Europe and say: 'This is the energy I've got from America — the enthusiasm and what I've learnt. Let's put it back into Europe.'"

'I have learnt far more in the time spent working in Hollywood than I would have done waiting for projects in Europe'



Ben Kingsley: "I suppose a craftsman should be able to take his work anywhere"

Last birdsong before the beyond

Five years ago Zubin Mehta, then still music director of the New York Philharmonic, commissioned Olivier Messiaen to compose a work for the orchestra in celebration of its 150th season, now at its mid-point. The work grew in scope and length, occupying what proved to be the composer's last years. Entitled *Eclairs sur l'au-delà* (Revelation of the Beyond) it was given its premiere in a series of performances conducted by Mehta, who was returning for his first appearance with the orchestra since stepping down as director a year and a half ago.

Eclairs is unquestionably Messiaen's most ambitious composition since the *Turangallila-Symphonie*, his other massive, evening-length orchestral work, which was written more than 40 years earlier. The new piece shares many

Olivier Messiaen's final orchestral work, a massive piece in 11 movements, has been premiered posthumously in New York

formal similarities with the *Turangallila*, and comparisons between the two are inevitable. Unfortunately, they are not to the new work's advantage. Where the *Turangallila* surges and crackles with intensity, evolving in its own mysterious way toward a transcendental musical reality, *Eclairs* meanders, lacking focus and energy.

The work is divided into 11 movements. Each of them carries quotations from the Bible, mostly from the Book of Revelation. In her detailed programme note, the composer's widow, Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen, writes of the piece: "Christ is constantly present in



Messiaen: most ambitious score since *Turangallila*

these meditations, but we find also the heavenly bodies, the colours of the precious stones of the Celestial Jerusalem, and the birds."

Undoubtedly there are moments of luminous beauty in the piece. The sixth movement, "Abide in Love," for example, is an exquisitely tender hymn for strings. And there are some passages of astonishing virtuosity: at several key points these introduce aleatoric elements. That was something of a departure for Messiaen.

JAMIE JAMES

RADIO: A fine *Duchess of Malfi*, and a consumer crusade

Radio drama usually includes a good deal of noisy drinking and kissing: they provide good clinks and slurs to fill out the words. The Radio 3 production of Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* (Sunday) was no exception, and the result was as ludicrous as usual. Producers do not seem to realise that such obviously contrived sound-effects break up the atmosphere of a play rather than enhance it.

Yet, all told, this was an excellent production by Alison Hindell of what is too often dismissed as a mere horror play. Bernard Shaw called Webster the "Tussock Laureate", Rupert Brooke said he portrayed the "ghastly turmoil of a nest of magpies". The actors here showed that the main characters are much more interesting than that.

Bosola and the Duke Ferdinand, plotting the destruction of the Duke's twin sister, the widowed Duchess of Malfi, sounded rather like 007 talking things over with M at luncheon at Brooks'. No doubt it was much the same in a Calabrian palace. Roger Allam as Bosola even had a touch of Sean Connery in his voice — jeering, keeping some shred of dignity, as he succumbed to orders. Adrian Dunbar as Ferdinand ranged convincingly between the cool lucidity of his sane moments

Vices find voices

and his murderous hysteria at the idea of his sister marrying again — there was a hint of incestuous love, but no collapse into over-explanation. Fiona Shaw gave a very good performance as the Duchess — brave and generous, but wilful and bossy too. Antonio, the steward whom she marries in secret (Patrick Brennan), sounded wimpy and cowardly, but you understood why he suited her. Her own courage when faced with her stranglers would, I thought, be very hard to convey with voice alone, but she pulled it off.

Minor vices are getting a good airing on Radio 3 this week, where every day on the 11.30am Charles Kennedy slot there is an episode called *Fair Play*. It is part of a "consumer crusade", warning people against dubious salesmen and helping them when they have been cheated.

I mention it because every day the programme includes a very funny sketch illustrating

some piece of sales villainy. Mollie Sugden plays the victim in most of them, desperately straining to keep her self-possession and general control of things, as plausible fellows try to double-glaze her spectacles and goldfish bowl, or come to mend a slate and end up resurfacing her drive and the road outside as well. In one sketch she requires her TV *Are You Being Served?* role and tries to persuade a customer not to return a gaudy suit with flashing lights on the lapels ("That saun bow, sir — if I may say so, gentlemen normally wear it on the other side.") You can also get a free magazine or have your problems answered on a phone-in if you are past finding these things funny.

DERWENT MAY

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Joseph
Kiss Of The Spider Woman
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UNTIL 10pm
THURS & FRI ONLY

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
SUNDAY 15 NOV at 3 pm
PETER KATIN
MOZART Sonata in C K376
CHOPIN Sonata in B flat op 35
DEBussy LISZT
21st St. 2nd floor Office CC 071-928 9800

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
TONIGHT at 7.30pm
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
MOZART Symphony No 24
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No 4
TCHAIKOVSKY Rococo Variations
PROKOFIEV Classical Symphony
HOWARD SHELLEY
cond piano
TIMOTHY HUGH cello
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مكتبات الأصل

News must stay at peak time

Continued experiment and creativity is the best way forward for ITV

Comment on the future of ITV should avoid fanatical optimism or pessimism. From January 1, 1993, the question is, how different? Short of a catastrophic fall in ITV revenues, or a catastrophic rise in the mid 1990s to finance BBC Television in whole or in part by advertising, it would be wrong to conclude that public service broadcasting will turn out to be the prerogative of the BBC. Such a conclusion ignores the lusty presence of Channel 4 (and S4C in Wales) and the detailed programme requirements of the ITV companies' respective licences.

There are down sides to ITV's position: from 1993 onwards, competition, especially between ITV and the satellite channels, will be even fiercer. Unlike the satellites, ITV companies have to pay the Treasury corporation tax, a specified percentage of qualifying revenue (basically, advertising and sponsorship) and the amount of their cash bid, indexed annually. The ITV companies also have to contend with the great difference in amounts that they will individually pay to the Treasury. This varies from about 2 per cent to more than 40 per cent of revenue. If revenues decrease, those percentages could increase.

Should the ITV companies then throw in the towel? Should the new networking team of Andrew Quin and Marcus Plannin devote themselves to commissioning and scheduling audience-grabbing entertainment shows to the exclusion of virtually everything else, hoping that the Independent Television Commission will take no notice or take pity on them? Well, no. The release two days ago of ITV's 1993 winter schedule shows a confident if cautious start.

ITV has a high degree of audience loyalty — a weekly audience share of 43 to 44 per cent — and a more extensive and better resourced set of regional programmes than its competitors.

Mr Quin has pointed out that in the last three months of 1992

£165 million is being spent on the network, against £146 million by the BBC and Channel 4 combined.

In the last few weeks, ITV has pitched aggressively towards advertisers. In this preliminary period of muscle-flexing, a touching regard for programmes might be considered insufficiently macho. That is perhaps understandable, but it does not follow that news, current affairs, documentary and arts programmes should be shifted to the margins of the schedules.

News has particular guarantees built into the licences. There has to be a half-hour news programme in peak time on week-days and the ITC is not prepared to change its definition of peak time (6pm to 10.30 pm) to allow News at Ten to become News at Ten Thirty or News at Eleven.

Programmes must appeal to a variety of tastes and interests

The minimum amount of current affairs, documentaries and arts programmes that must be shown is set out in the companies' licences.

The ITC's requirements are not, however, just a matter of adding up hours. ITV programmes must appeal to a wide variety of tastes and interests. They will not be met if peak time and the hours immediately adjacent to it are devoid, for example, of factual programmes other than news.

The retention of current affairs in peak time will not send ratings and revenue into terminal decline but will be a benefit. ITV needs to retain the broadest possible base of advertiser and has to move its demographic profile a little more up-market if it is to attract new categories of advertisers.

The idea that every programme should meet a revenue-generating target would hobble the network and deny experiment and creativity. The network would rapidly atrophy.

The ultimate test for the new ITV network is whether it will retain the confidence of viewers. It will do so if it plays to ITV's existing strengths.

DAVID GLENCROSS

●The author is chief executive of the Independent Television Commission.

Roy Greenslade is unimpressed by ITN's cosmetic changes but finds content still stronger than the BBC's

Sorry, I missed the point

As revolutions go, the change to ITN's nightly news is not so much bloodless as colourless. The first night, on Monday, showed a slight difference that viewers could have been forgiven for hardly noticing.

Obviously the apostles of real revolution within the news operation have given way to reformists and the result of the much-heralded biggest revamp in 25 years for News at Ten amounts to a tame compromise.

The new music is like the old music; the new opening sequence lacks the dramatic pace of its predecessor; the high angle zoom over Big Ben is so much less sensitive than the clockface shot. And, of course, the bongs remain.

Did Stewart Purvis, ITN's editor-in-chief, host think where revolutionaries and reformists earnestly debated the question: to bong or not to bong? Radicals obviously lost out to the conservatives over the bong but the vanguard's most clear success is the decision to bring in The Single Presenter, known as The Anchorman.

Trevor McDonald, looking remarkably similar to a man of the same name who has regularly appeared for years with a second news reader, carried out the job on Monday with his usual dispassionate professionalism.

Apart from being alone in a setting of deep blue (another conservative coup?) it was difficult to note any difference from the norm. There was a nod in the direction of American-style news presenta-

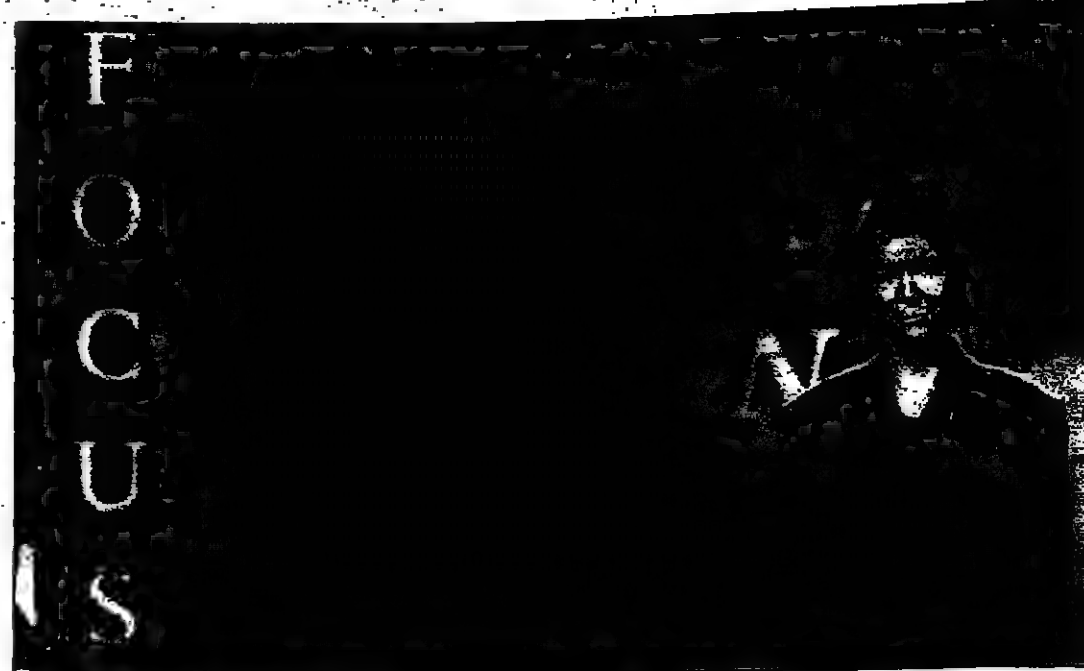
tion when Mr McDonald "interviewed" one reporter from the studio, but putting only one stilted question rendered the exercise pointless.

The other novelty was the launching of a special feature entitled Focus On Britain, introduced by Julia Somerville. It was an old story — about people failing to pay back mortgages — which included a superb revelation: a building society was using a debt collector to persuade people to pay back their money. Unfortunately, this subject was skimmed over too quickly, and required a lengthier current affairs slot rather than a news item.

However, by comparing News at Ten with BBC's Nine O'Clock News, certain strengths emerge which appear to have little to do with the changes. Though briefer, ITN's reports about President Mitterrand's criticism of the British delay on ratifying the Maastricht treaty and the collapse of the Iraqi arms trade trial were much clearer than their BBC counterparts.

ITN's coverage of the visit of Russia's President Yeltsin was more informative. News at Ten also appeared to score a victory over the BBC's in the day's main economic story on speculation on possible increases in National Insurance contributions.

The BBC's talk with a select committee chairman suggesting such a rise was "possible" was superseded by ITN's interview with Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, which "effectively ruled out" any increase. We must



In depth? Julia Somerville introduced the News at Ten Focus On Britain for the first time on Monday

wait until the chancellor's Autumn Statement tomorrow to discover which side got this right.

What was surprising was that on this day the BBC chose not to field their latest stars of the Britain mission to explain: Peter Jay, the economics editor, and Robin Oakley, the new political editor. Both appeared instead after the news on Panorama. Perhaps it was confidence or arrogance. More likely, it was a belief that only journalists such as me would bother to

compare both news programmes anyway.

Back with the ITN revolution it was impossible not to notice an early example of the growth of the cult of personality.

Mr McDonald introduced a filmed item by saying: "Political editor Michael Brunson reports." Seconds into the film a rather tacky graphic informed us, in case we did not hear, that the big man talking was Michael Brunson, the political editor. At the end, Brunson signed

off by telling us he was none other than Michael Brunson.

Does three name references inside a minute and a half indicate preferred status within the ITN politburo? If so, twice-blessed Peter Sharp in Bosnia was obviously preferred to science editor Lawrence McCinty and business correspondent Greg Wood, with only two. Surely with so few words available in a bulletin, these references are irrelevant. ITN revolutionaries, please note.

A grown-up boys' own adventure magazine hits the market

No sex please, we're real men

The company behind the venture is Gruner + Jahr, a German publishing subsidiary of the £5.4 billion Bertelsmann Corporation, one of the world's top three media and communications groups.

G & J created neoprene in the women's magazine market six years ago when it transplanted its own Prima magazine to British newstands.

Within months of the launch, the magazine, with its home-oriented mix of recipes, non-threatening fashion and crafts, became, and

has stayed, the top-selling monthly with a circulation close to 800,000. In Primatand, "O" is for original, not orgasm.

But with men's general interest publishing still puny in comparison, Esquire's circulation is 66,000 for example — G & J might not have it so easy this time.

Although it is aiming for a settled-down circulation of 100,000, a figure of 80,000 would be "respectable", according to the company.

While Esquire and GQ, potential

rivals at least in advertising terms, are heavy on lifestyle and fashion, Focus is big on action.

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While Esquire readers are this month wrestling with regaining their confidence after being dumped by a lover, Focus readers want to know, via a question and answer section, why leaves change

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Law Report November 11 1992

Power to order non-compliance

In re Arrows Ltd (No 4)
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment November 4]

The court had power to direct liquidators of an insolvent company not to comply with a notice served by the Serious Fraud Office requiring production of transcripts of examinations under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986, save upon the SFO establishing (a) that it was in evidence against that person any statement by him recorded in such transcripts except for the purposes mentioned in section 2(8) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 and (b) not to deliver such transcripts to any other prosecuting authority without securing from that authority a similar undertaking.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division on an application for directions by Mr Nigel James Hamilton and Mr William Scott Martin, joint liquidators of Arrows Ltd, in directing them not to produce to the SFO, without first obtaining from it such undertakings, a copy of the transcript of the examination of Mr Mohammad Naviede, pursuant to an order under section 236 of the 1986 Act made by Mr Justice Hoffmann on October 29, 1991.

Section 2(2) of the 1987 Act enabled the SFO to require the person whose affairs were to be investigated to attend and answer questions with respect to any matter relevant to the investigation. Section 2(14) made it an offence either knowingly or recklessly to make a statement in purported compliance with such a requirement, which was false or misleading in a material particular; and by section 2(8):

"A statement by a person in response to [such a requirement] may only be used in evidence against him (a) on a prosecution

for an offence under subsection (14) or (b) on a prosecution for some other offence where in giving evidence he makes a statement inconsistent with it."

Mr John Jarvis QC and Mr Ewan Muir for the liquidators; Mr Matthew Collings for Mr Naviede; Mr Richard Ritchie for the Director of the SFO.

MR JUSTICE VINELLOTT said that Mr Ritchie had submitted that the SFO had an untrammelled right to require the production of, and to use, such evidence as might be contained in the transcripts. That argument had been rejected when advanced before Mr Justice Hoffmann (1992) 2 WLR 923.

Mr Collings argued: first, the transcripts were not "documents" within section 2(3); second, they were subject to legal professional privilege; third, that the principle of public interest immunity applied.

As to the first, the word "document" clearly covered the transcripts. On privilege, in *Waugh v British Railways Board* (1980) AC 521, 533, Lord Wilberforce said that, unless the purpose of submission to a legal adviser in view of litigation was at least the dominant one for which the relevant document was prepared, privilege could not apply to it.

The only difficulty in the case arose under public interest immunity. When an individual faced prosecution he was entitled to remain silent and to avoid cross-examination: see per Lord Mustill in *R v SFO, Ex parte Smith* (The Times June 16, 1992) 3 WLR 66, 74. That right had been invaded by section 2(2) of the 1987 Act, but the effect of immunity had been preserved by section 2(8).

But that subsection would not

apply to answers given by the accused in an examination under section 236 of the Insolvency Act, which could be put before a jury by the prosecution as evidence in chief, whether he gave evidence or not.

Mr Collings had accordingly urged that disclosure of the transcripts to the SFO should be subject to a condition that the SFO would not deploy them as evidence in chief.

Arguments advanced against requiring the SFO to give any undertaking were:

- 1 That to do so would be inconsistent with the parallel, clearly unprotected, regime under section 433 of the 1986 Act, coupled with rule 9.4(7) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925); and
- 2 That the court should not fetter the SFO's use of its wide investigative powers.

The former relied on a misconception: the question was not whether the answers given would be admissible, but whether the SFO would be entitled to adduce them in evidence otherwise than subject to section 2(8) of the 1987 Act.

As to the latter, that failed to meet the point: Lord Mustill in *Ex parte Smith* had pointed out (at p84) that section 2(8) did not provide complete protection, since information obtained in answer to questions could lead to the disclosure of damaging facts which, once known, could be proved by other means. Thus to impose on the SFO a condition as to use made of the transcripts could not be said to fetter its investigative powers.

Other matters, however, had given his Lordship more concern. By virtue of section 3(5) of the 1987 Act, information obtained by the SFO might be disclosed by any designated member of it to a wide

range of other authorities for purposes which included any prosecution.

It had been urged that if information given to another prosecuting authority would not be subject to the restriction contained in section 2(8) it would be illogical to impose any fetter on the SFO's own use of those transcripts.

His Lordship thought that premises unsound, and would construe section 2(8) as applying to the use by any authority of any statement made in response to a requirement imposed by section 2. Reliance had also been put on the power of the trial judge under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to refuse to admit evidence, having regard, *inter alia*, to the circumstances in which it was obtained, on the ground that it would have an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings.

The answer was that when Parliament enacted the Act in 1987 it had clearly not regarded section 78 as sufficient to preserve the right of an accused person to refuse to give evidence or to submit to cross-examination.

In the result, his Lordship concluded that the liquidators ought not to make the transcript available to the SFO unless the SFO was willing to undertake that statements in it would not be used in evidence on the prosecution of Mr Naviede, save in the circumstances set out in paragraphs (a) or (b) of section 2(8), and that a similar undertaking should be exacted from any person to whom the transcripts might be disclosed under section 3(5) of the 1987 Act.

The SFO was granted leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Alsop Wilkinson; Treasury Solicitor.

Revising tax assessment

Kelsall (Inspector of Taxes) v Stippelchoise Ltd

A corporation tax assessment made out of time with the leave of a special commissioner that referred to a specified accounting period could be revised without further leave under the provisions of section 247(8) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, now section 12(8) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, to show the true accounting period.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division on October 23 when allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination by a

special commissioner that had held that the out-of-time assessment raised on Stippelchoise Ltd for an accounting period ending on October 25, 1977 could not be amended so as to substitute another date without fresh leave of a commissioner being obtained.

HIS LORDSHIP said that he would not express an opinion on whether an assessment made out of time with leave could always be revised without further leave.

Here the leave given by the special commissioner to the revenue was leave to make an assessment out of time by reference to the accounting period to October 25, 1977 on the footing that it would be open to Stippelchoise to show that the true accounting period ended on some other date and equally would be open to the revenue if persuaded that that other date was the true accounting period to revise the assessment before the appeal was heard.

Non-payment of court fine

Regina v Exeter City Magistrate's Court, Ex parte Sugar

When dealing with the non-payment of a court fine, justices had not merely to consider whether another method of enforcing payment was an appropriate alternative to commitment to prison under section 82 of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980; section 88 imposed an obligation to consider whether a supervision order would be appropriate.

The power to commit to prison was subject to paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Act which stated that sentences should give credit for any part of the fine actually paid.

Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Tudor Evans so held on November 4 in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, when allowing an application by Simone Amanda Sugar for judicial review of a

decision of Exeter City Justices committing her to prison for 14 days for the non-payment of a fine.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that while the justices had properly considered whether non-payment of the fine was due to the wilful refusal or culpable neglect of Mrs Sugar, and had considered all other methods of enforcing payment under section 82 of the 1980 Act, they had failed to take account of section 88.

The justices were obliged by section 88 to consider the suitability of ordering supervision of the payor.

The length of a prison sentence was subject to paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Act.

The maximum period was the period applicable, less a percentage determined by giving credit for the proportion of the fine already paid.

A new type of neighbour

Rock bottom prices have made it easier for some to buy in areas previously beyond their reach. Rachel Kelly writes

Residents sharing a communal garden in North Kensington, west London — bankers and captains of industry included — are quietly turning. At the bottom of the garden, a large sign has been erected outside four white Victorian stucco houses announcing that the properties are being refurbished by a charitable housing trust for single women.

No one will speak out publicly, but in private residents confess that the scheme is not in keeping with the impression they wish to give to dinner-party guests.

In the boom, residents could have comfortably predicted that their semi-prime patch of the borough would have gone on getting grander and grander. The recession has halted gentrification in its tracks.

If prices have fallen in the best areas, they have collapsed even further in areas not quite prime but still desirable, creating opportunities for a new generation of buyers. Those buying or refurbishing are now more likely to be housing associations than yuppies.

Savills estate agents has been charting the rise and fall of the London boroughs. Traditionally prime areas such as Knightsbridge, Belgrave, Chelsea, Regents Park, Mayfair and St James's retain their value in a recession, whereas their neighbouring boroughs — which in a boom were briefly blessed with prime status — have slipped down the scale. Fulham, Maida Vale and Wapping have all lost their prime crown and become much more accessible to a wider market.

"We've noticed a down-turn in prime property, but in more peripheral areas," Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, says. "Prices were much more inflated in these areas than in core areas."

Ms Barnes likens the property boom to a wave: in the good times, it flooded over new areas, increasing prices and attracting a new clientele who could no longer afford their traditional stamping



Happy customer Richard Everton outside his new studio flat in Wapping, London, which he bought at a much reduced price

grounds. Yet with the slump, the wave has receded, leaving pockets of patchy gentrification, often surrounded by houses in poor or deteriorating repair. It may take the next property boom to make the tidal mark stick.

Developers in particular are conscious that housing associations have become large and powerful customers, who buy an increasing proportion of new houses up for sale. At a time when the rate of house sales to private buyers is half that of the late 1980s, the government has allocated £6 billion over three years for housing associations. There are expected to be fewer than 100,000 private sales of new houses next year, against 50,000 new social homes. Yet two years ago, 200,000 private homes were sold against 20,000 new social homes.

In London's Docklands, a market once dominated by "yuppies", a new breed of buyer is moving in, tempted by falling prices. At Vogan's Mill, near Tower Bridge, prices have dropped by up to 50 per cent from 1988 levels. At New Crane Wharf, Heron Homes has also dropped prices by up to 50 per

cent and there are price falls too at Free Trade Wharf, Limehouse Basin, and Burrells Wharf. Though agents report that their clientele is still overwhelmingly City professionals, there are opportunities for buyers such as Richard Everton, 22, who has bought a studio flat in New Crane Wharf for £59,950 through Savills. Three weeks ago it was on the market for £73,000. Mr Everton, an assistant video-tape recorder operator, had been renting in Bromley, south London.

Peter Demsey, from Black Horse Agencies Gascolgne-Pees in Weybridge, Surrey, has noticed a subtle switch in the buyers who can now afford to buy on the St George's Hill private residential estate. Once the preserve of rock stars, for the past 20 years the area has seduced British photographers, captains of industry, and property developers as well as the international rich. Now Mr Demsey notes the arrival of millionaires who have made their money on the back of the recession.

"I've got one client, for example, who has made a fortune in the sewing machine business," he says.

"In a recession, people start repairing their own clothes." Another client has a shop-fitting business. As the turn-over of shops quickens with the recession, his business has been booming. "He's been into one specific retail outlet four times this year," Mr Demsey says.

Developers are realising that it is time to market more affordable property in traditionally exclusive areas. Laing Homes, for example, have a development of one and two-bedroom flats in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

"Our research showed a pent-up demand from people looking for this type of home who had been forced to stay in the family home due to the high cost of alternative suitable accommodation," says Paul Boys, from Laing Homes. In the past, the only option would have been five-bedroom homes.

Robert Sturges and his girlfriend Alison Freedman have bought a two-bedroom flat, a ten-minute walk from Henley bridge for £61,995. "We wanted to live in Henley, but it was so expensive to buy anything new before, and we

wanted new. Now we can afford it."

Those with money can now afford houses in areas once out of reach, or bigger and better houses in town. In the country, they can afford homes once denied them. William Gething, from Property Vision which advises buyers, imagines a north/south line running across England.

"In 1983, that line ran through Salisbury, Chippenham and Cirencester. The line moved westwards as the market rose — from Salisbury to Shaftesbury to Sherborne, and then from Sherborne to Yeovil and Taunton." Now the line has shifted back again. "During the heady days, Devon, Cornwall and East Angles seemed like sensible places to live. They were fine in a bull market. Now you find it difficult to sell in those areas. The market has been shot through. Now two hours is seen as an acceptable drive from London."

Hampshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire have regained their prime position, leaving those who bought in the boom further out, somewhat marooned. They need another property boom to wash over them.

IN THE MARKET

Out with offices, in with flats

Lateral thinking is helping property owners and agents to shift office space that seemed destined to remain empty for years. With about 30 million square feet of offices vacant in London, compared with about three million five years ago, this is no mean feat.

It has been achieved by owners who were prepared to switch business premises to residential use. Malcolm Beckett, property analyst for Applied Property Research, a consultancy supplying information to property and construction industries, says: "Applications for change of use are increasing daily. We would like to see temporary consent on office buildings which have no chance of letting in this market, but might in five to seven years."

"Empty buildings are a waste of resources and useless to the community. It is far better to rent the space out to housing. In some areas, where it will be a very long time before office use returns, a permanent change to residential might make more sense."

This is what has happened at Plantation Wharf, in Battersea, south-west London. About 35,000 sq ft of office space in the development's centrepiece, the Trade Tower, has been turned into medium priced flats. Of the 53 flats recently put up for sale in the tower, three have sold at the asking price. Only two flats in the first phase of the development are unsold. In addition, 70 per cent of the commercial space in the development, which has a mixture of offices, flats and ateliers, has been taken up.

The developer Broadwell Land, which originally bought 17 acres of land in the area, went into administrative receivership in 1990. The receivers Arthur Andersen have pared down the land holding to four-and-a-half acres and made Trade Tower purely residential. When Broadwell Land went for planning consent in 1987, the tower was to be nine

storeys high with offices from ground to six and luxury apartments on the other three floors.

"Then the bottom fell out of the residential market in 1989," says Gillie Spencer, Broadwell Land's sales and marketing manager, "so we approached the planners to turn all of the tower into offices. We started building in 1990 until the company went bust."

Arthur Andersen spent two months evaluating Plantation Wharf and decided to continue building the tower and near by Molasses House because they were blighting the development. "We did reasonably well on office apartments, but whilst we were relatively successful at first with commercial tenancies, the number of ensuing insolvencies meant we made no headway. It seemed more sensible to convert the tower into flats, which there is a demand for, rather than more unlettable office space. So we went back to the planners who gave consent. The tower was only a shell, so the £2 million we spent fitting it out would have been

History shows that when the market turns, residential moves upwards first

spent whether it be offices or flats. History shows that when the market turns, residential moves upwards first."

One of the advantages of the block having been tailor-built for offices is that the flats have high ceilings (9ft, extending to 12ft near the windows) and natural light from floor to ceiling windows. Five show flats have been designed by Sarah MacGinty. "It was one of my most enjoyable projects," she says. "In so many newly built flats you usually have no space to work with or to do anything spectacular."

The flats cost from £75,000 for one-bedroom to £195,000 for two-bedrooms. Penthouses range from £250,000 to £350,000.

MARY WILSON

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مكتبة من الأصول

BBC1

6.00 Ceebeak (94985) **6.30 BBC Breakfast News** (9629527)
9.05 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (531343) **9.45 Rose King**. Game show (s) (591995)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (780492) **10.05 Playdays**. For the very young (s) (513370)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes Lesley Joseph's weekly snoop behind someone's lace curtains, Barbara Cartland with a love story, consumer affairs, Claire Rayner's "agony" column, and health advice for the slightly overweight woman (s). With **News** (Ceebeak) and weather at 11.00 and 12.30 (42501462)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Judi Spleers is joined by Lord (Doris) Hesley (9387701) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (78495430)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceebeak) Weather (75701) **1.30 Neighbours**. (Ceebeak) (s) (42621492) **1.50 Eldorado** (s). (Ceebeak) (s) (73265188) **Wales: Primetime**
2.20 Starsky and Hutch. The flared-trousered policemen go undercover when word gets round that a master criminal is in town to attend a diamond auction (s) (1695860) **Wales: 2.30-4.10 Rugby Union** — Neath v Australia



Recalling her career: the actress Julie Andrews (3.10pm)

3.10 Primetime presented by Gloria Hunniford and Maggie Philbin. Today's guests are Harry Secombe, June Whitfield, Tony Statton and Julie Andrews. There is also an item on banning asbestos in the workplace (s) (7887324)
3.50 Double Duckie Euro Tour. Puppet-music show (s) (3608904) **3.55 Radio Roo** (480782) **4.10 Pottery**. A new series of the award-winning documentary programme. Today, two teenagers investigate looks with the help of Shakespeare's Sister and footballer Justin Fashanu (8729256)
5.00 Newsworld (8541679) **5.10 Grange Hill**. Children's drama serial set in a secondary school (s). (Ceebeak) (s) (2313061)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceebeak) (s) (983899) **Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**
6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Andrew Harvey. (Ceebeak) Weather (527)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (879) **Northern Ireland: Neighbours** **6.40 Eldorado**. (Ceebeak) (s) (48050)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. With news of the lesser disc, a new kind of powerboat and a resistant form of tuberculosis discovered in New York. (Ceebeak) (s) (661)
8.00 Trainer. Drama serial set in the world of horse racing. Starring David McCallum, Susan York, Mark Greenstreet and Patrick Ryecart. (Ceebeak) (s) (886459)
8.50 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson (s) (733121)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather (8517)
9.30 Pole to Pole. Michael Palin's odyssey reaches half way with a trek across Sudan's Nubian desert and then, because of civil war, eastwards to Ethiopia. (Ceebeak) (224817)
10.20 Spotlight introduced by Ray Stubbs. Rugby Union: Highlights of Neath v Australia and a preview of Saturday's England v South Africa match. Basketball: England v Russia in the European championship. Football: Premier league action and a preview of next week's World Cup games (s) (223265)
11.20 Paradise. Western adventures starring Lee Horsley (839343)
12.10am Weather (289299). Ends at 12.15
2.15 BBC Select: Accountancy Television (50270). Ends at 3.15. **4.00 TV Edits** (971812). Ends at 4.50

BBC2

6.00 Breakfast News (4821169) **8.15 Westminster** (8973824)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes (23310762)
2.00 News and weather followed by **You and Me** (s)
2.15 Women Priests: Time To Decide. Live coverage of the General Synod's debate and vote on the issue of women priests, introduced by Francine Stock from Church House, Westminster. With **News** (Ceebeak) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (32463965)
6.00 Star Trek. In part two of *The Menagerie* Spock takes the crew of the Enterprise to a forbidden planet (s). (Ceebeak) (789257)
6.50 DEF It's Rough. Guide to the World's Islands. The first of seven programmes in which Magenta De Vine and Rajan Dalar visit exotic islands, beginning with Hawaii. (Ceebeak) (s) (192701)
7.40 Open Space: Dietbreakers. A discussion on the myths of dieting, hosted by Mary Evans Young who founded a group to help women escape the tyranny of watching one's weight. (Ceebeak) (388140)



Haunted by Auschwitz: Italian writer Primo Levi (8.10pm)

8.10 Primo Levi: The Memory of the Writer
 ● CHOICE: This moving portrait of the great Italian writer concentrates on the experience which changed his life and may have motivated his suicide — Auschwitz. Levi survived a year there having been selected for slow death by working rather than instant death by gas chamber. When he came out he wrote *If This is the Man* which described his experience. He hoped that by writing he was an eyewitness to a trial, he would help bring the offenders to full justice. In the event he became disappointed at what he saw as Germany's lack of repentance. Nor did he ever get over "the shame that it just man experiences at another man's crime". Yet troubled as he was, he was able to comfort other survivors (s) (873985)
9.00 M*A*S*H. When small items that have disappeared are found in Hawkeye's locker, Henry has no choice but to fill out court martial papers (s) (357091)
9.25 The Secret Agent. The final episode of Dusty Hughes's faithful dramatisation of Joseph Conrad's novel, starring David Suchet as the reluctant anarchist Adolf Verloc. (Ceebeak) (s) (184072)
10.30 Fifth Column. Colin Buchanan, bishop in the diocese of Rochester, argues that the time has come to disestablish the Church of England (434169) **10.30 Newswatch** with Peter Snow (487121)
11.15 The Last Show
 ● CHOICE: Even in laissez-faire Los Angeles it is possible to shock your neighbours — Frank Gehry, subject of tonight's profile, discovered. An architect who admits that he enjoys being considered a "weirdo", Gehry's most personal project came in 1978 when he "wrapped" chinkling lending and computerised siding around his ordinary suburban home (chosen by his wife). The endeavour served to infuriate the locals but also to publicise his "chicoplastic aesthetic". He has since created many public and private buildings for Los Angeles, even converting his style to Europe, though London rejected his plans for King's Cross. The programme ends by looking at Gehry's plans for a \$100 to \$200 million Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA. Will it restore optimism, or will it be seen as an eccentric "cultural luxury"? (s) (107256)
11.55 Women Priests: The Synod Debate. Highlights from this afternoon's debate at Church House. Westminster (889430)
12.25am Behind the Headlines. Linda Agran analyses yesterday's past and present with guest Christopher Lee, asks Choice Goodchild about what makes perfect couples and hears a cynic's point of view on the subject from divorced cartoonist Michael Heath (8852251)
12.55 Weather (7213589)

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ITV LONDON

8.00 TV-am (4341148)
9.25 Keyhole. Music quiz game hosted by Alistair Davall (4174762)
9.55 Thames News (5139121)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion (s) (7685891)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Anna Soubry and Richard Bath. Today's edition includes legal rights advice, family law and Liza Goddard on how to survive the menopause. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (80524006)
12.10 Allsorts. For the very young (s) (2345879)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Sonia Russell and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) Weather (216430) **1.05 Thames News** (58671342)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (191879)
1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (138350)
2.15 Graham Kerr. The chef prepares his own version of the Mexican dish super burritos (115459) **2.45 Take the High Road**. Drama serial set in the Highlands (872568)
3.10 ITN News headlines (9435108) **3.15 Thames News** headlines (9434468) **3.20 The Young Doctors**. Drama serial (3711828)
3.50 Bugs Bunny (s) (3693072) **3.55 Rupert the Bear**. Cartoon (180527) **4.20 Grotbags**. Carol Lee-Scott stars as the green-headed witch (s) (1452017) **4.40 Woolf**. Comedy adventures of a boy who keeps changing into a dog (Oracle) (s) (889546)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz (8108256)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (121121)
5.55 Thames Help (s) (444850)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Oracle) (695)
6.30 Thames News (275)
7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s) (9546)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (458)
8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. The entertainer's guests are Shirley Bassey, Julie Andrews, Joe Pasqua, Bradley Walsh and Jane Horrocks (s) (7102)



A close encounter: Michael Douglas meets Glenn (9.00pm)

9.00 Film: Fatal Attraction (1987)
 ● CHOICE: This sly but gripping film has endured something of a backlash since its highly successful release in the late eighties. Yet there is something so horribly recognisable about the situation that it still has the power to chill. Michael Douglas is at his best as a Manhattan lawyer who has a brief, passionate affair, and Anne Archer is suitably attractive yet unbecoming as his wife. But it is Glenn Close who steals the show as Alex, the jilted lover who turns into a Medusa-like nightmare of vengeance. The thing is that when she says to him: "You've had your fun, now you just want a quiet life", she has a definite point and director Adrian Lyne manipulates our emotions to ensure that even by the nail-biting climax, we still have a vestige of sympathy for her. (Note: some scenes have been cut) (Oracle) (s) (7888) (Continues after the news)
10.00 Fifty Years On. Only. A documentary, narrated by Ned Beatty, on Hollywood's low budget sinfisks from the 1930s to the 1950s (s) (327541)
10.30 Thames News (322659)
10.40 Film: Fatal Attraction continued (227734)
11.55 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (882256)
12.25am Kojak. The New York policeman investigates a woman's claim that she has been attacked. But is she telling the truth? Starring Telly Savalas (s) (327541)
1.20 The A-Z of TV. Only. A documentary, narrated by Ned Beatty, on Hollywood's low budget sinfisks from the 1930s to the 1950s (s) (327541)
2.45 America's Top Ten (s) (82170)
3.15 Videoflash (58473229)
3.40 Quiz Night presented by Ted Robbins (10708812)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville. Tennessee (s) (s) (84410541)
4.40 The Very Best of. Only. Variety news (3860678)
5.00 The Best of a Crowd. American comedy series starring John Ritter (59252)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (40305). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Cartoons (21782)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chns Evans and Gaby Roslin (5334)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (83169)
9.30 Schools (713017)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (96633)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning series. The guest is Robin Williams (19237)
1.30 Eureka's Castle. Young people's entertainment (s) (14527)
2.00 Film: Death Drums Along the River (1965) starring Richard Todd. Thriller, based on Edgar Wallace's novel *Sanders of the River*, about diamond smuggling, mystery and murder in darkest Africa. Directed by Lawrence Huntington (4324)
3.30 The Raitrodder (1965, b/w). A Buster Keaton short made towards the end of the comic actor's career (463)
4.00 Family Pride. Drama serial about a Midlands-based Asian family (s) (188)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz, presented by William G. Stewart (s) (512)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Guests discuss various ways of disciplining children (s) (8054053)
5.55 The Magic Roundabout. Classic children's series, narrated by Nigel Planer (s) (442452)
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Anneka Rice is in the Emerald Isle looking for hidden treasure (s) (Teletext) (23276)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Dermot Mulrighan and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (512701)
7.50 Political Comment from a Liberal Democrat politician (721031)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (3508)
8.30 Travelog
 ● CHOICE: The quirky travel programme returns, tonight with Pete McCarthy visiting Holland and Robert Elms travelling to Miami. The series aims to appeal to the independently minded traveller and resists seeing every destination merely as holiday fodder, trying instead to work out what makes the places tick. McCarthy for example sees Holland as an intriguing hybrid of Lincolnshire and Bangkok, so like England and yet so decidedly not like her. Embarrassingly he decides to seek out the hippy life he knew so well back in his student days; it is still there but the ageing McCarthy no longer fits in. Elms, a cooler customer, predictably heads for Miami and its deco south beach, a haven for the hip. Forthcoming attractions will include programmes devoted to single countries including Russia and France (Teletext) (s) (5343)
9.00 Dispatches. A report on new revelations about an extraordinary trade in East Germany during the cold war — revelations that threaten to become big scandals in the new Germany (749275)



Strange behaviour: grieving Miranda Richardson (9.45pm)

9.45 Short and Curly: Broken Skin. After her father's disappearance young Amelia struggles to make sense of her grieving mother's behaviour. Starring Miranda Richardson and Gaby Barker (s) (130548)
10.00 The Golden Girls. Comedy from the four Miami matrons. (Teletext) (s) (97362)
10.30 Hale and Pace. The first of a series of six repeats from Gareth and Norman's second LWT series (73782)
11.00 The Prisoner. Cult 1960s drama series devised by and starring Patrick McGeehan (s). (Teletext) (65188)
12.00 The Steve Allen Show (b/w). The guest is Bob Hope (47218)
12.30am The Best of the Worst. Including the auction of one of Madonna's bras and a Texan woman marketing condom earnings (s) (357033)
12.55 Film: Tearing (1986) starring Smita Patil. Hindi drama set in the world of Indian big business. Directed by Shekhar Kumar. English subtitles (5879096). Ends at 4.00

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (114458) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (91458) 11.15-11.30 Anglia News (91458) 12.30-1.00 Anglia News (91458)
BORDER
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SATellite

A black South African minister searches for his son (872628) **8.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **8.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **8.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **8.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **8.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **8.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **9.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **10.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **11.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **12.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.20 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.30 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.40 Dot and Koko** (465633) **1.50 Dot and Koko** (465633) **2.00 Dot and Koko** (465633) **2.10 Dot and Koko** (465633) **2.20 Dot**

Salako suffers new knee injury

Platt promises to shrug off his defensive duties

BY DENNIS SHAW AND LOUISE TAYLOR

THE defensive midfield duties demanded of David Platt by his Italian club, Juventus, will be discarded with relish when he attempts to inspire a high-scoring England win against Turkey at Wembley next Wednesday.

Platt yesterday eased any fears that his appetite for goals had been eroded by the more negative role he adopts for his club when he said: "I can change my style very easily." England will hope he can, for Platt has scored his nation's last five goals.

In Italy, Platt's record is just two goals in 13 starts, way below his personal target, but, over the diplomat, he yesterday avoided any suggestion of disillusionment with the role required of him by Giovanni

Trapattoni, the Juventus coach.

"I cannot go forward as much for Juventus as I have done with previous clubs because I might leave a hole behind me," he said. "Also, I could get in the way of our three front men. We might score more, but we might also give more away."

"I spend more time in our own penalty area than I do in the opposition's, but I am not unhappy about my shortage of goals because of the way I am required to play. I'm sure I would score more if I had freedom."

Switching priorities to England's scoring requirement for qualification for the World Cup finals in the United States in 1994 is to be achieved, his

desire to return to attacking habits becomes obvious.

Platt's international record of 12 goals in 33 games could be regarded as the basis for a long-range attack on Bobby Charlton's haul of 49 in 106. "My philosophy is, first, that I want to win every game, second, it would be nice to win 5-0 and, third, I would be happy to score every goal scored by my team," he said.

"If I can get three scoring chances per game, at any level, then I can get 20 goals or more per season." Platt recognises that his situation has changed dramatically since his £6.5 million move from Bari to the Turin giants. No longer is he a star outshining the rest, but he disputes the impression that his general form is reflected by that declining goal ratio.

Trapattoni said I would score fewer goals because of my role in the team. Platt pointed out: "I believe I am doing what they want me to."

Platt has played in 13 of Juventus's 17 fixtures, losing his place three times because of the limitation on foreigners to three per game and once through injury. He was in Birmingham to launch a promotional link with Brynron Airways and will return tomorrow to join up with the England party.

Before Platt boarded the flight to Milan he added: "If you saw the look of delight on my face when I scored against Norway, you would know how much I enjoy getting goals."

John Salako, the Crystal Palace winger, could withdraw from the England squad after suffering a knee injury in training. Palace yesterday played down fears that Salako, 23, had a recurrence of the knee ligament problem that required a career-saving operation in the United States last year.

Salako sustained the original injury in October 1991 and missed seven months of last season. It was suggested that his career could be over, but the player had a dead man's ligaments grafted onto his knee and returned to the Palace first team this August.

Alan Smith, Palace's assistant manager, said: "John just has a knock. It is nothing to do with the operation. He could well be pulling out of the England squad, but we don't know. He might just need to rest for a couple of days."

Ray Lewis, a referee, has been reported to the Football Association for allegedly swearing at a supporter. He faces potential disciplinary action. Lewis, 48, a marketing director from Great Bookham in Surrey, was reported following an incident during last Tuesday's third division match between Barnet and Walsall.

Cut price Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM City Football Club could be purchased for as little as £1.25 million following the financial collapse last week of the club's owners (Dennis Shaw writes). This figure would cover the cost to the Kumar brothers when they bought 84 per cent of the shares, plus debts of approximately £500,000.

The receivers, Leonard Curtis and Partners, are looking for £1.25 million, but will sell to the highest bidder. No firm approaches have been received.

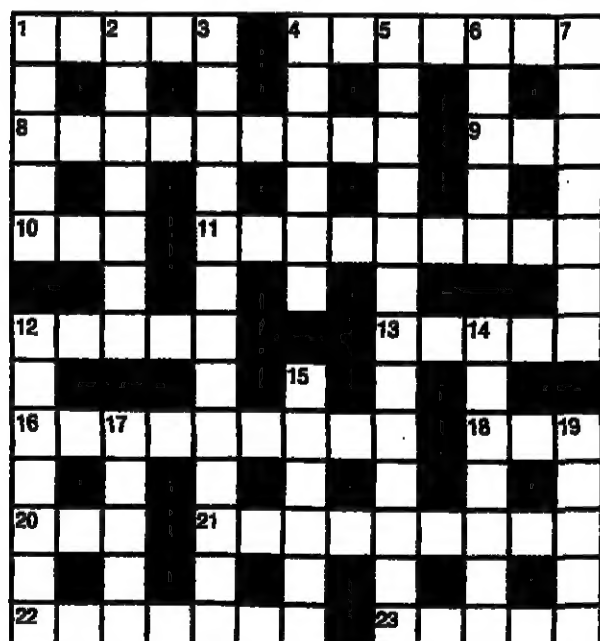
As reported yesterday, among those interested are the Wrublewski brothers, owners of the Birmingham Bulls basketball club, and a

consortium involving Paddy Lynch, the boxing promoter, and the millionaire, Mike McGinnity. Another prospective purchaser to enter the arena yesterday was Roy Breuhart, 47, a Guernsey-based millionaire, who owns plastic factories.

Despite this, the Kumars are seeking to retain control, claiming that the appointment of the Receiver was without notice, in private, appointing a receiver to carry on the business of a going concern. Ramesh Kumar, the vice-chairman of Birmingham City, said:

Cabra shares, page 21

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2942



ACROSS

- 1 Car dashboard (5)
- 4 Glisten (7)
- 8 Direct (5,4)
- 9 Fast French main (1,1,1)
- 10 That there (3)
- 11 Mosh pupa (9)
- 12 Spanish donkey (5)
- 13 Raging violently (5)
- 14 Joker's missile (5,4)
- 16 Fossil cooking fuel (3)
- 20 Wrestling floor (3)
- 21 Constrained (9)
- 22 In no place (7)
- 23 Finished (5)

DOWN

- 1 Half century (5)
- 2 Inquest officer (7)
- 3 Reverse circle direction (4,9)
- 4 Steps flight (6)
- 5 Beyond words (1,3)
- 6 Iron, copper (5)
- 7 Amended (7)
- 12 S African aborigine (7)
- 14 Prejudiced (7)
- 15 Scottish cottage (6)
- 17 Under one's influence (2,3)
- 19 Allied (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2941

ACROSS: 1 Scaled 5 Affect 8 Find 9 Outgoing 10 Quarts 12 Mush 15 Physiotherapy 16 Pass 17 Awhile 19 Adjacent 21 Haha 22 Amal 23 Daniel

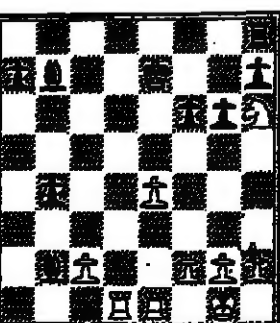
DOWN: 2 Chihuahua 3 Led 4 Dropshot 5 Arry 6 Frogmarch 7 Can 11 Resistant 13 Sepulchre 14 Thwarted 18 Rail 20 Dim 21 Hen

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Fischer — Spassky, Sveti Stefan (Game 11) 1992. White has a material advantage, but his main problem is to reactivate his errant h6-knight. This could be achieved with 1 Ng4, but Fischer found a much more dynamic continuation. Can you see it?

Solution below.



Solution: the best solution is to return the piece temporarily with 1 Nf5+ g6 2 e5! Be7 3 Kf7 and 2... Kf8 lose to 3 Rd7 and 3... Rb8 respectively 3... f5 and white regains the piece with an easy win.



New challenge: Nigel Mansell practises his swing at the Royal Adelaide golf course yesterday

Mansell pours oil on Adelaide fire

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NIGEL Mansell suggested yesterday that race stewards had shirked their responsibilities over his crash with Ayrton Senna in the Australian grand prix because the Formula One world championship had been decided before the race.

The British driver, who had secured his first world title in August, continued his criticism of officials, who called the incident a sporting accident, as he prepared to play in this week's South Australian Open golf championship at Royal Adelaide.

Mansell said he believed the stewards at the race in Adelaide on Sunday had acted unfairly after Senna's car drove into the back of his Williams-Renault, forcing both him and the Brazilian out of the race.

"The problem is that the stewards probably chose not to do anything about it because the sport's in a big enough turmoil anyway," Mansell said. "It's the last race of the year, the championship was sewn up, so because we were both put out they probably took the soft option — to not do a thing."

"But I tend to think if it had been reversed there would have been a lot more hollering and shouting. He [Senna] has just got to accept he made a really bad mistake going into the corner, because if you bump someone off who's in front of you, it can't be the person in front at fault."

Mansell is nursing a sore back, neck and right thumb as a result of the collision. "I hoped to get through the weekend without any bumps and bruises. Unfortunately one of my fellow drivers had other ideas," he said.

Mansell, who is leaving

Formula One for American Indy Car racing, said he had "butterflies" heading into the four-day golf tournament, for which he received a sponsors' invitation. "But the injuries shouldn't be a problem," he said.

A two-handicap golfer, Mansell hopes to do better than he did in the Australian Open at Royal Sydney four years ago, when he failed to make the cut.

"My expectation is just to go out and enjoy myself," he said. "I know the course well now and I've just got to manage my own game."

RFU acts to lift suspension on Carlisle

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has come to the aid of Carlisle, the Courage Clubs Championship second division north club, which was forced by the Cumbrian rugby authorities to suspend all playing activities indefinitely last weekend for fielding a former rugby league trialist.

Nigel White, a New Zealander, played rugby league as an amateur and had trials at Workington Town. Carlisle fielded White in a club match against Annan on September 16 after apparently receiving assurances from the New Zealand Rugby Union that he was clear to play, and informing both Twickenham and the Cumbrian Rugby Union of the position.

Carlisle thought no more of it, until Cumbria announced last week that it had no other option but to suspend immediately all on-field activities at the club.

White, officials argued, had not been properly reinstated, and Carlisle were in clear breach of the rules governing converts to union from rugby league.

After four days of confusion, Carlisle were given permission by the RFU to fulfil their home second XV fixture against Creighton last night after it had earlier granted the club's appeal against suspension. The case is expected to be heard at Twickenham later this month, when Carlisle hope for no stiffer punishment than a reprimand.

In the meantime, White remains barred from playing, and Carlisle are baffled and dismayed by the saga.

"We came clean to the authorities on the player, who we genuinely believed was clear to play for us," Ray Singleton, the club's spokesman, said.

"We informed Cumbria in a letter back in September, but didn't get a reply, until we

were told last Friday that we were suspended. Everything had to be cancelled, including the mini-rugby session for 60 children."

Waterloo have upset Bath by pulling out of their scheduled match at the Recreation Ground on Saturday, two weeks before their meeting in the third round of the Pilkington Cup. Tony Cove, spokesman for the second-division club, said yesterday: "We see no real point in playing a Bath second team, and every point in keeping our powder dry for the big day."

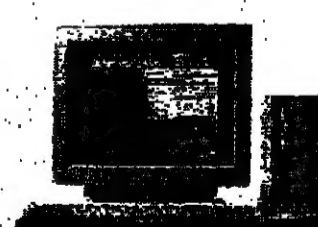
Paul Ashmead, the flanker, returns from a 45-day suspension to play for Gloucester in their match with Transvaal at Kingsholm on Friday.

Ashmead was suspended last month for illegal use of the boot on Dean Richards during Gloucester's league match with Leicester at the end of September, but he returns just two days after the end of his suspension to displace Pete

Glanville at blind-side flanker. The Gloucester selectors are keen to get Ashmead back to form in time for the club's important league match with Saracens later this month. However, there is no place for either of their regular props, Pete Jones and Bob Phillips.

Walter Holland, the BAWLA secretary, said: "We have been able to understand each other's position."

SUN HITS EARTH!



SUN Microsystems, the planet's largest manufacturer of UNIX computers, announce two new workstations and a mainframe-like SPARCcentre 2000 server.

The base model is the SPARCclassic. At its heart, the highly-integrated microSPARC processor and new 15" Super-VGA colour display help make it the lowest price colour Sun workstation yet. From £3395.

The SPARCstation LX adds accelerated graphics capability and advanced ISDN communications.

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Nomad Allison returns to Rovers

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

MALCOLM Allison has never been one to break bread with the establishment. Wine, women and song: champagne, cigars and fancy hats. Bizarre tastes in the straight-laced world of football management.

Always eager for the publicity stunt, even if it exploded in his face, Allison's effervescent love of life has often been at odds with the more regimented day-to-day demands of inspiring a team of no-hopers into world-beaters.

But now, at 65, Allison is back as eager as ever to inject hope into a dying cause. He took charge, albeit temporary, of Bristol Rovers yesterday when Dennis Rofe, the Rovers manager, resigned.

Not for the first time in his career, Allison's appointment as a consultant had caused a stir. Rovers' board expressed concern about the "ongoing partnership" between the pair and it was Rofe who exited stage left.

Rovers are bottom of the first division and many might query their wisdom in hiring a character who, apart from his

pensionable age, has outraged so many so often with his colourful behaviour and off-the-wall training techniques.

Yet only Tommy Docherty can rival him in the number of clubs which have called on his services. Plymouth Argyle, Manchester City and Crystal Palace engaged him twice.

Forced to lead a nomadic existence abroad, he sought sanctuary at, among others, Galatasaray in Turkey and Sporting Lisbon and Victoria Setubal in Portugal.

He once posed naked with Fiona Richmond in a dressing-room bath. It was manna from heaven for the assembled photographers. In his early years, Allison admitted to having gambled £1 million and won £2 million.

"If you don't live at risk, you don't live," he said. "You've got to work out the odds and go to win all the time." It encapsulated his outlook on life: live now, pay later.

A two-season stint as coach to Victoria Setubal in the late Eighties ended in dismissal — an all-too-regular occurrence for a man not noted for his diplomacy or tact. His depart-

ture then was perhaps more to do with his players indulging in kung fu fighting as part of their pre-match preparations.

Only recently, Allison showed he has lost none of his ability to shock. His fedora and fur-coat days may be over but he still retains his rent-a-quote bravado backed up by heart-felt philosophy.

"There are two types of people who succeed in coaching," he said. "They are common and confidence tricksters or intelligent men who



Allison: eager